



Get Talking



CHINESE WORKBOOK

走向中文



Mandarin Chinese

Practice for Beginners



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WORKBOOK

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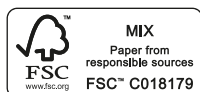
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Foreword

This is a workbook, and learning Chinese is the mission. Here are five tips to help.

1 Take the time to practice when you can.



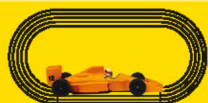
2 Go slow. Half an hour a day is better than two straight hours.



3 Test yourself. Make flashcards and doodle characters in spare moments.



4 Review whenever you can; repeat, repeat, and make sure it's all memorized.



5 Practice makes perfect, so using this workbook is a great start.



Top ten most common Chinese characters

These are all in the book...

1 de possessive particle

的

6 rén person

人

2 yī one

一

7 wǒ I

我

3 shì to be

是

8 zài at

在

4 bù no/not

不

9 yǒu to have

有

5 le verb particle

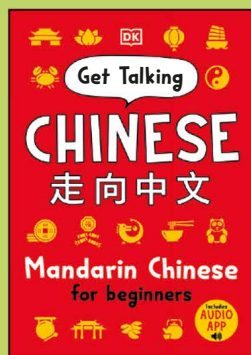
了

10 tā he

他

A companion book

This workbook is a companion book to *Get Talking Chinese*. The course book is accompanied by the free audio app DK Get Talking Chinese, which is available to download from the App Store or Google Play.



Using the workbook

Although it is a “work” book, it’s also fun! There is space to doodle and draw, as well as other fun stuff. It features:

- Memory tips and pinyin practice
- How to write all the characters with clear stroke order
- Key characters that you won’t forget
- Squared paper to practice what you learn at the end of each section
- Pronunciation tips, too

Keeping it simple

This book includes useful and commonly used Chinese characters. The information is not overwhelming, with a pace of roughly six characters per double-page spread.

Remember, the secret of learning Chinese is:

慢慢来! Màn màn lái!
Take it easy!

Pinyin and tones

Chinese has no alphabet. The written language is Chinese characters. These give no clue to pronunciation, so a pronunciation guide was developed in Roman letters. This is called pinyin.

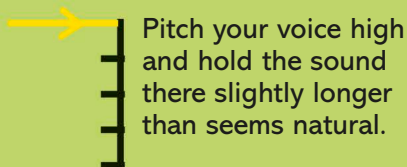
For example: 中文 is written **Zhōngwén** in pinyin.

Tones and tone marks

Mandarin Chinese has four tones, and one “toneless” tone. The tone you use when pronouncing each one-syllable sound determines the meaning. The tone marks ˉ ˊ ˋ ˋ on the vowel show which tone to use.

Here is how to pronounce the different tones:

1st tone high level



mā

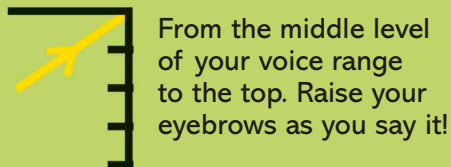
mother

As a doctor tells you when looking down your throat. Say:

Aaah!



2nd tone rising



má

hemp

Like the tone at the end of a question.

What?



Numbering the tones

The tones are numbered, and when you are learning Chinese, it is good to know which tone is which number.

Practice by writing the tone marks on these pinyin words:

3rd tone: mi

4th tone: mi

1st tone: mi

1st tone: zhu

2nd tone: zhu

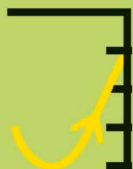
3rd tone: zhu

4th tone: ba

1st tone: ba

2nd tone: ba

3rd tone falling then rising



From the middle level, down deep, then up a bit.

mǎ

horse

Really?

Like when you're surprised.



4th tone falling



A short, sharp fall from your high voice pitch. Stamp your foot as you say it!

mà

scold

No!

The tone of a statement.



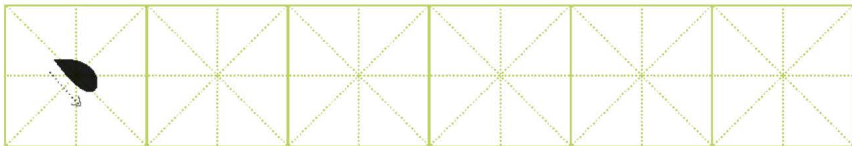
1 Characters

Different strokes

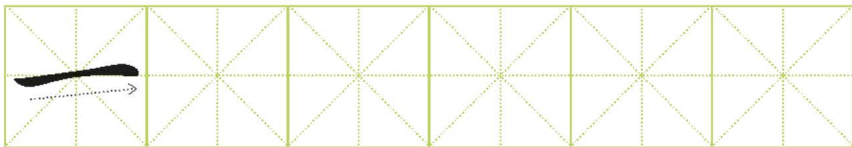
Chinese characters are not random squiggles. They are made up of set strokes.

Copy these strokes in the boxes provided. Follow the direction of the arrows.

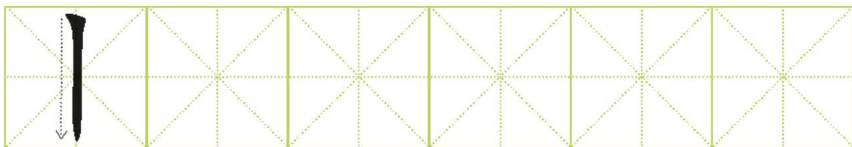
1



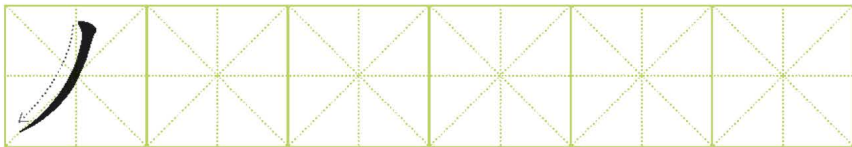
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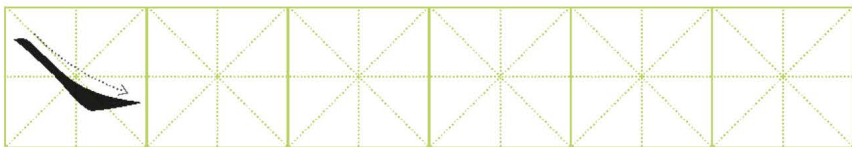
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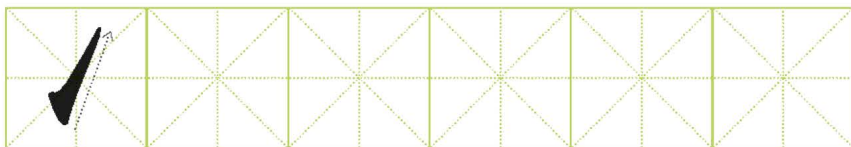
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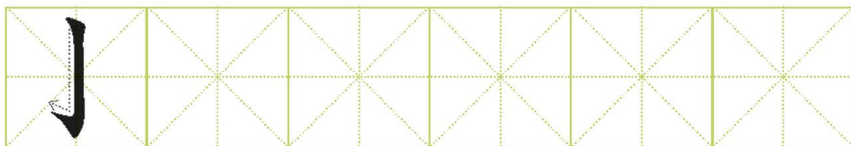
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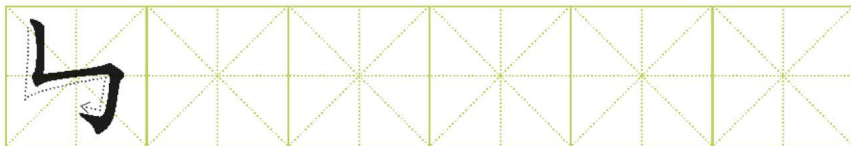
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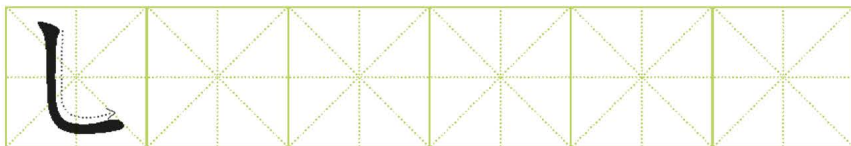
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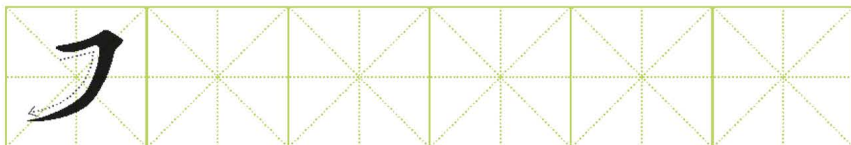
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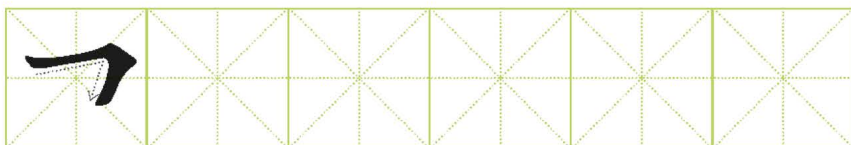
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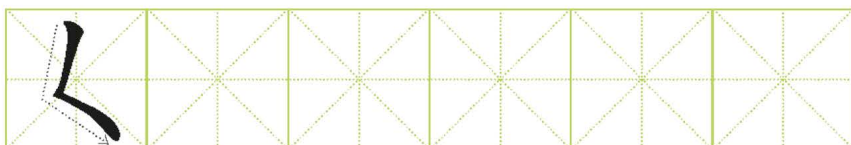
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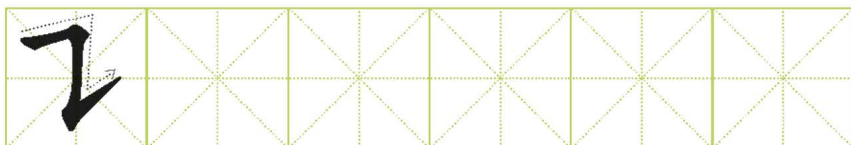
11



12



13



Stroke order

The characters are arranged in a set way, too. Follow the correct stroke order to write beautiful characters.

Follow the numbered strokes to write the characters.
The two general rules are:

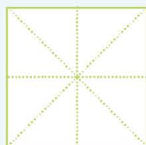
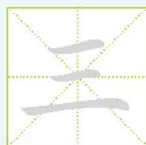
1 Write top to bottom

三
sān
three



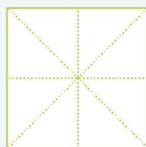
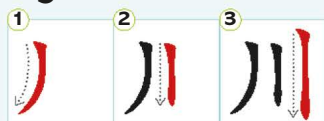
Trace

Freehand



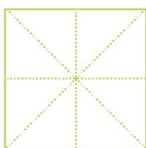
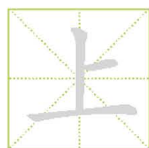
2 And left to right

川
chuān
river

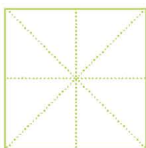
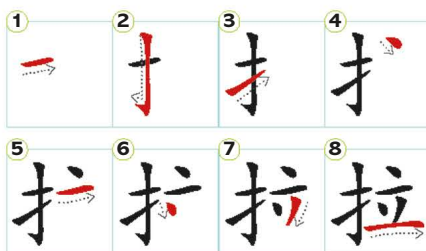


Practice writing these characters using the above two rules:

上
shàng
on/above



拉
lā
to pull



Common variations

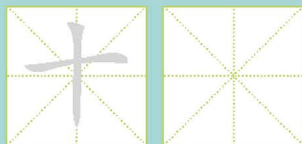
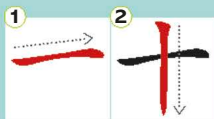
There are variations, however. It depended on what made fewer blobs when scholars first wrote with brushes and ink long ago.

Here are some examples...

Horizontal before vertical

十

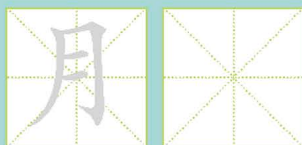
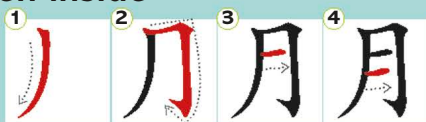
shí
ten



Outside then inside

月

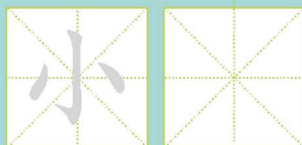
yuè
moon



Center before outside

小

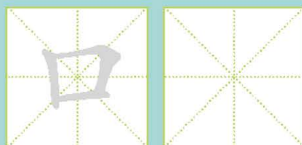
xiǎo
small



Left vertical first

口

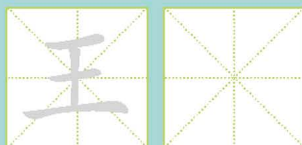
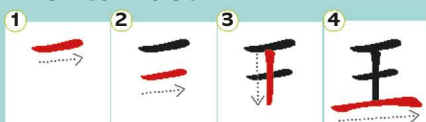
kǒu
mouth



Bottom horizontal last

王

wáng
king



Mixing it up

In any block of Chinese text, different stroke orders are represented.

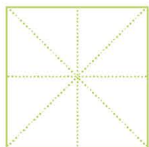
Try writing the characters in the boxes with the correct stroke order, then look on the right and check them.



Use a book to cover up the right side of the dotted line.

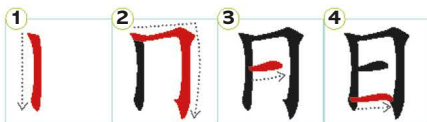
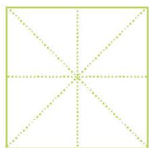
人

rén
person



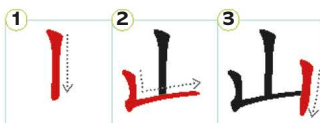
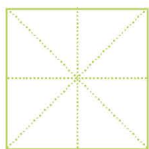
日

rì
sun



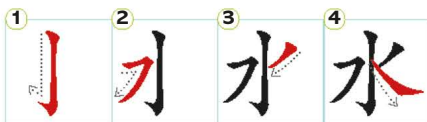
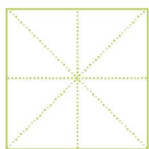
山

shān
mountain



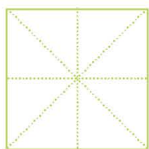
水

shuǐ
water

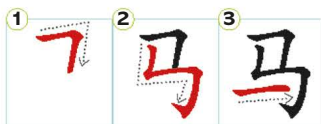
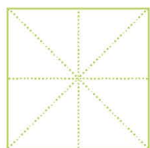


鸟

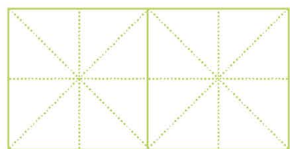
niǎo
bird



马
mǎ
horse



朋友
péngyou
friend



Did you get any right? Good job if you did, but don't worry if you didn't! This is an aspect of learning Chinese that will eventually become second nature. Just concentrate on following the stroke orders in this book.

Picture it!

The original characters, written over 2,000 years ago, were pictures of things and some Chinese characters to this day are pictographs. Drawing on characters (whether they are pictographs or not) is a good way to help you to remember them.

Draw on these characters. Look at the example.



sun



mountain



bird



horse

It's radical

Some characters can be found making up parts of other characters. These characters then become “radicals.”

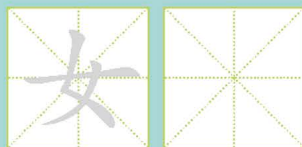
There are 214 radicals in total, and they can give clues to meaning and pronunciation.

To get you started, practice writing these four:

女

nǚ

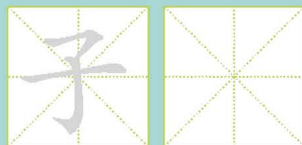
woman



子

zǐ

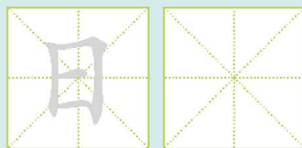
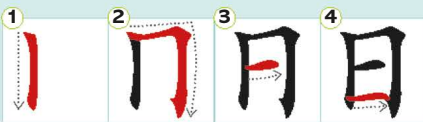
child



日

rì

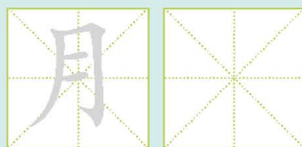
sun



月

yuè

moon





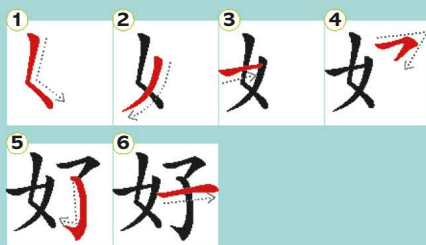
Notice how the meanings of the new characters directly relate to the meanings of the original characters.

Like building blocks, you put the characters together to make new ones.



好

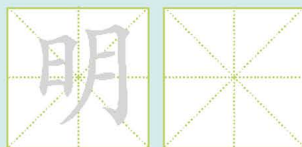
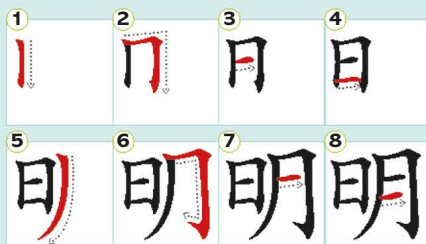
hǎo
good



(literally woman and child together)

明

míng
bright



(literally sun and moon together)

Character practice 1

Practice writing the characters from this section here.

三

川

上

拉

十

月

小

口

人

日

山

水

鸟

马

朋友

好

明

2 Let's get started

First words

These are among the first words to learn in any language.

你好

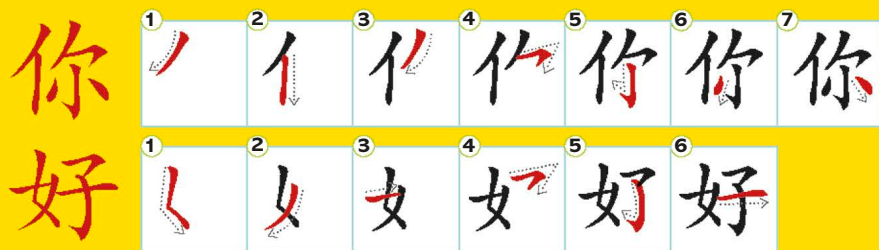
nǐ hǎo
hello



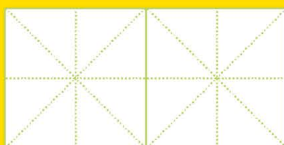
Copy the pinyin here:

.....

How to write it:



Your turn:

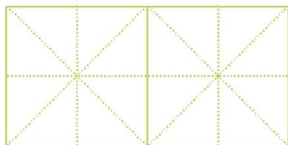
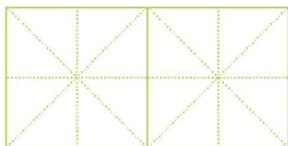


谢谢

xièxie
thank you

Your turn:

谢谢

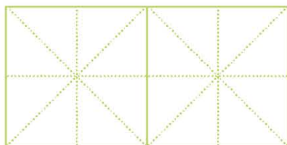
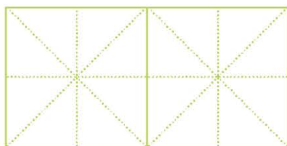


再见

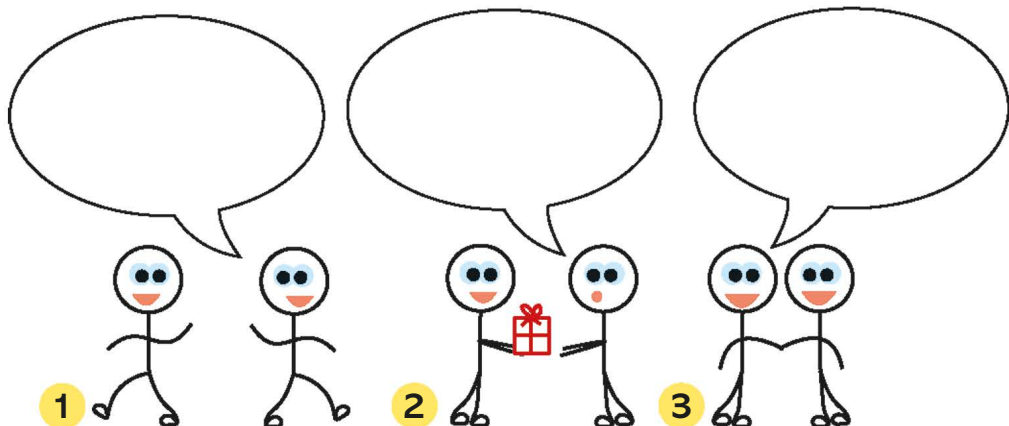
zàijiàn
goodbye

Your turn:

再见



Fill in the speech bubbles. What's the person saying?
Answers on page 128.



How are you?

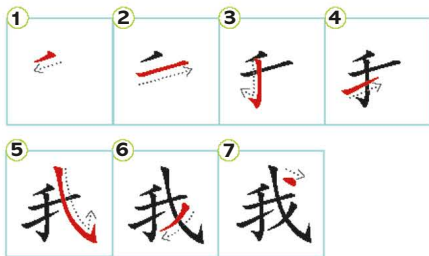
Asking “how are you?” is a good way to greet people in China, too.

First of all, learn these pronouns.

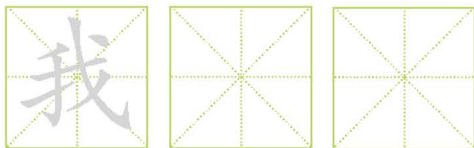
我

wǒ
I

How to write it:



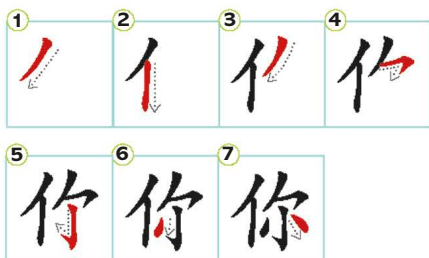
Your turn:



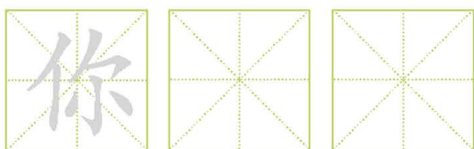
你

nǐ
you

How to write it:

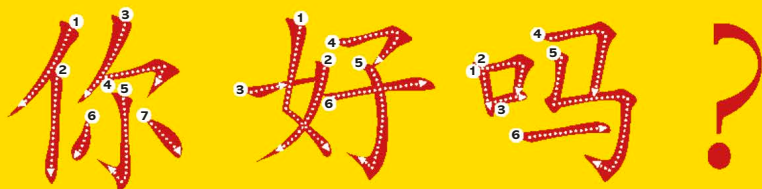


Your turn:



Hello + “ma”

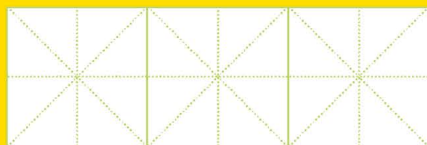
To say “how are you?” simply add “ma” to nǐ hǎo.



Nǐ hǎo ma?

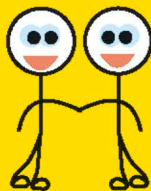
How are you?

Your turn:



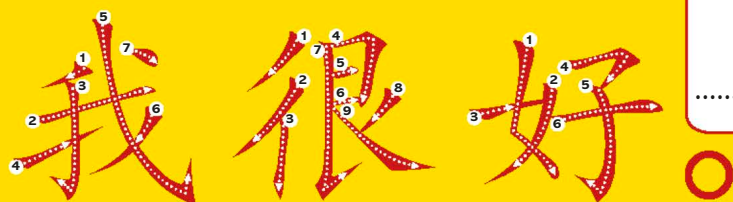
Copy the pinyin here:

.....



I'm very well.

Now answer the question.



Wǒ hěn hǎo.

I'm very well.

Your turn:



Copy the
pinyin here:

.....

Where is it?

Being able to ask where things are will help you to find your way in China.

First learn these key characters.

在哪儿?

zài nǎr...?
where is...?

Copy the
pinyin here:



How to write it:

在: 1. 一 (horizontal line), 2. 丿 (diagonal down-left), 3. ㇏ (diagonal down-right), 4. 丨 (vertical line), 5. 丨 (vertical line), 6. 丨 (vertical line)

哪: 1. 丨 (vertical line), 2. ㇏ (diagonal down-right), 3. 口 (mouth), 4. 叮 (dīng), 5. 叮 (dīng), 6. 叮 (dīng), 7. 明 (míng), 8. 明 (míng)

哪: 9. 哪 (nǎ)

儿: 1. 乚 (hook), 2. 儿 (ér)

Your turn:

在 哪 儿 ?

Now ask the way

To ask where something is, you simply add “zài nǎr?” to the word for what you are looking for. For example: **Fàndiàn** means restaurant. **Fàndiàn zài nǎr?** means “Where’s the restaurant?” (this literally means “Restaurant at where?”).

Ask where each of these places are, using pinyin.
Remember to put the noun first! *Answers on page 128.*



1

饭店
fàndiàn
restaurant

Where is the restaurant?

.....



2

书店
shūdiàn
bookstore

Where is the bookstore?

.....



3

茶馆
cháguǎn
tea house

Where is the tea house?

.....



4

厕所
cèsuǒ
bathroom

Where are the bathrooms?

.....

Ladies and gents

The characters for “man” and “woman” are useful to know, especially as they are the bathroom signs in China.



Picture it

Draw a head, hands, and shoes on the character to help you to remember it.



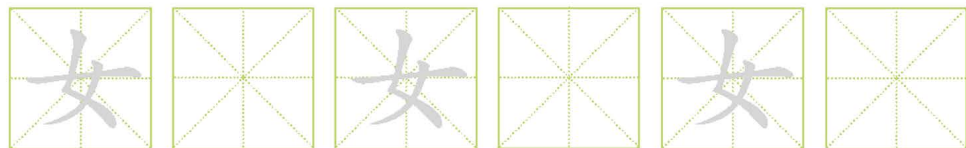
The pinyin for “nǚ” has two dots above the “u.” This marks a round “ooo” sound.



How to write it:



Your turn:



Three characters for the price of one

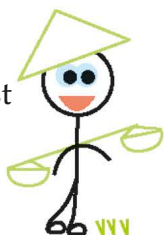
The character for “man” is made up of two other characters:

田 + 力 = 男

tián lì nán
field strength man

Together they literally mean “strength in the field.”

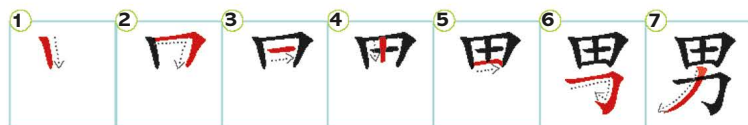
When the character was invented, over 2,000 years ago, most men worked in paddy fields.



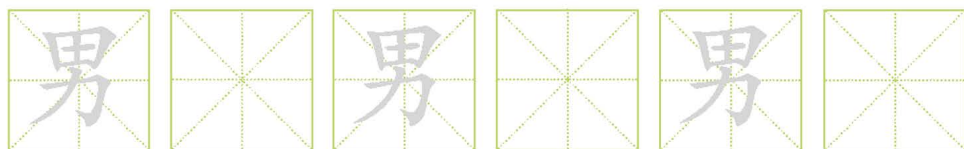
Memory tip!

Change the “m” in “man” to an “n” and you get “nan!”

How to write it:



Your turn:



Welcome!

Give a warm welcome by inviting someone in for a nice cup of tea.

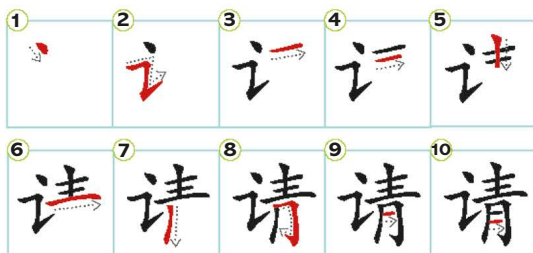
请

qǐng

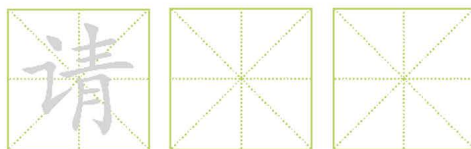
please

(pronounced "ching")

How to write it:



Your turn:

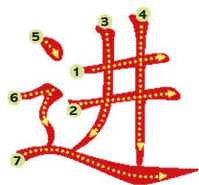


Fill in the spaces with one (or two) of these characters in the boxes.
Answers on page 128.



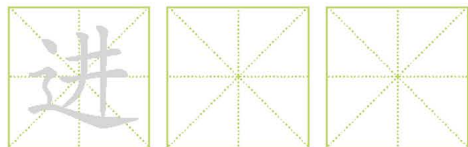
Your turn:





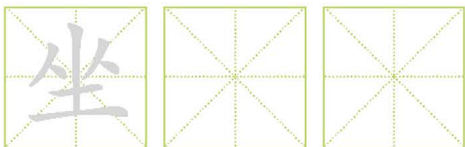
jìn
to enter

Your turn:



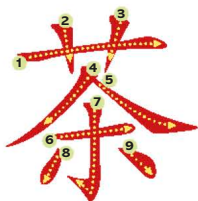
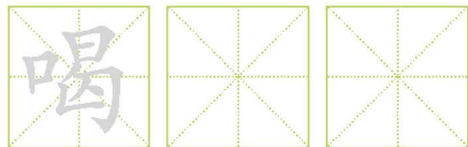
zuò
to sit

Your turn:



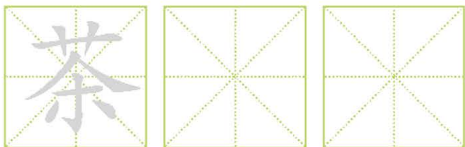
hē
to drink

Your turn:



chá
tea

Your turn:



2



Please sit
down!



Your turn:



!

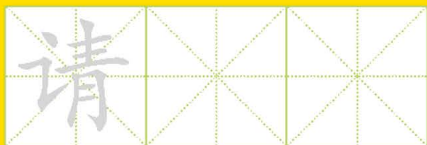
3



Please have
a cup of tea.



Your turn:



○

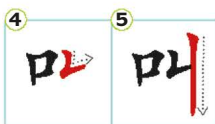
What's your name?

Learn how to reply when someone asks you what your name is.

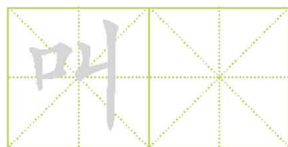
叫

jiào
to be called

How to write it:



Your turn:

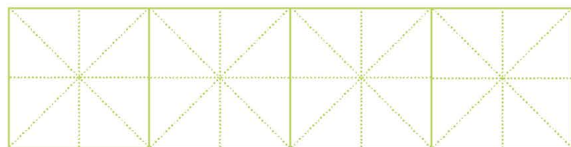


你叫什么？

Nǐ jiào shénme?

Your turn:

What's your name?



我叫王英。

Wǒ jiào Wáng Yīng.

I'm called Wang Ying.

Wang is a common last name. Note: last names come first in China.

Ying is a common given name and means "brave."

Your turn:

我叫王英。

王英

--	--	--	--

Answer the question using pinyin and your own name.



Nǐ jiào
shénme?



Character practice 2

Practice writing the characters from this section here.

你好

谢谢

再见

我

你

你好吗

我很好

在哪儿

饭店

书店

茶馆

厕所

女

男

请

进

坐

More to do!

Keep going. This section includes these, too...

喝

茶

请进

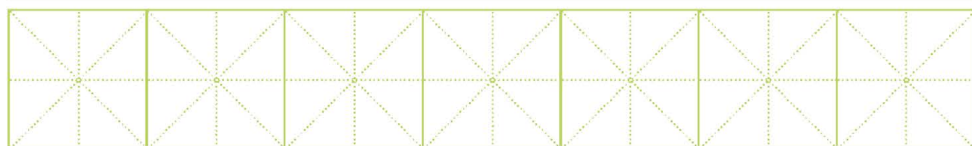
请坐

请喝茶

叫

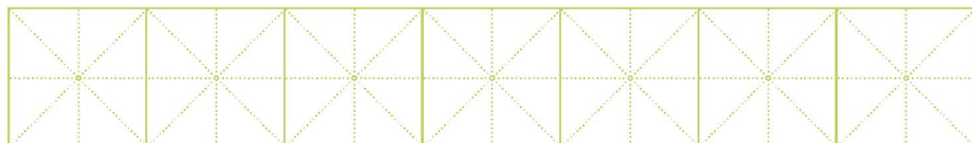
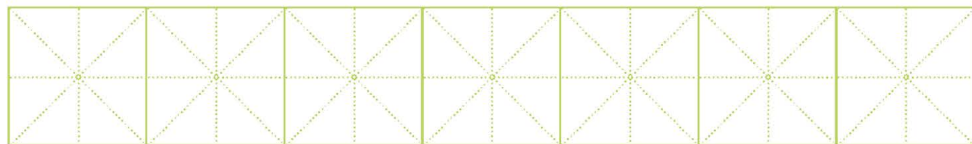
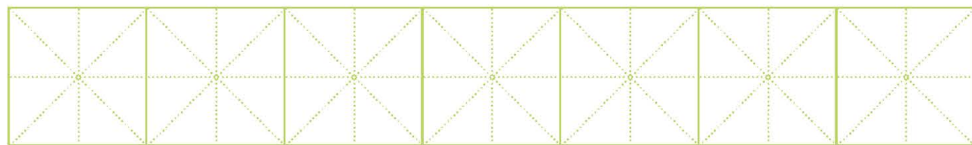
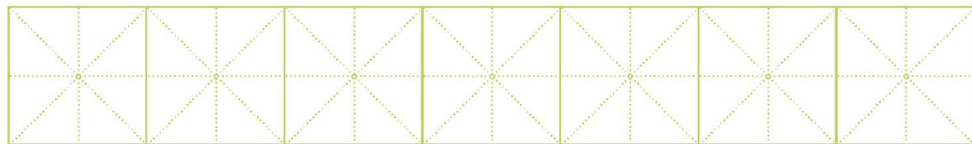
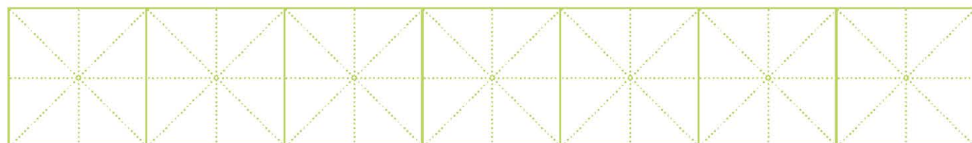
你叫什么

我叫王英



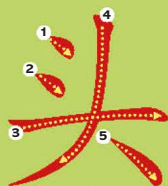
Practice squares

Extra space for extra practice.

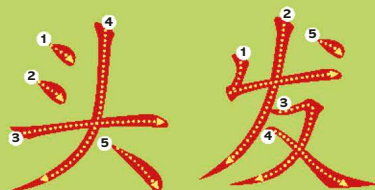
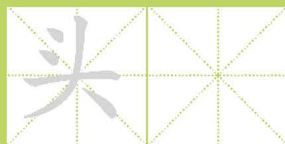
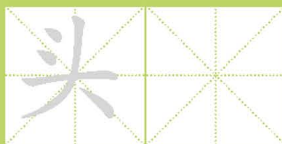


Head...

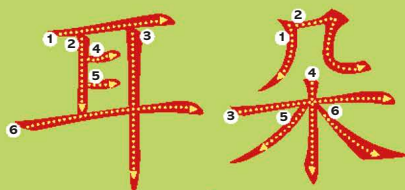
These next pages include body vocabulary, starting at the top.



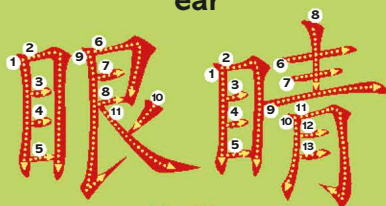
tóu
head



tóufa
hair

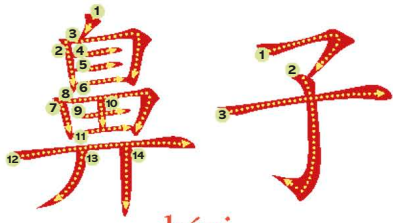


ěrduo
ear

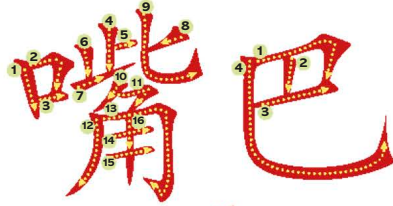
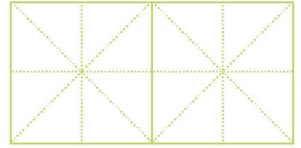
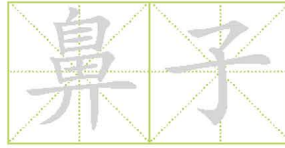


yǎnjing
eye

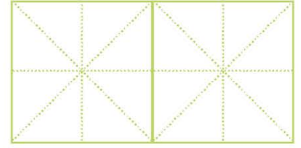




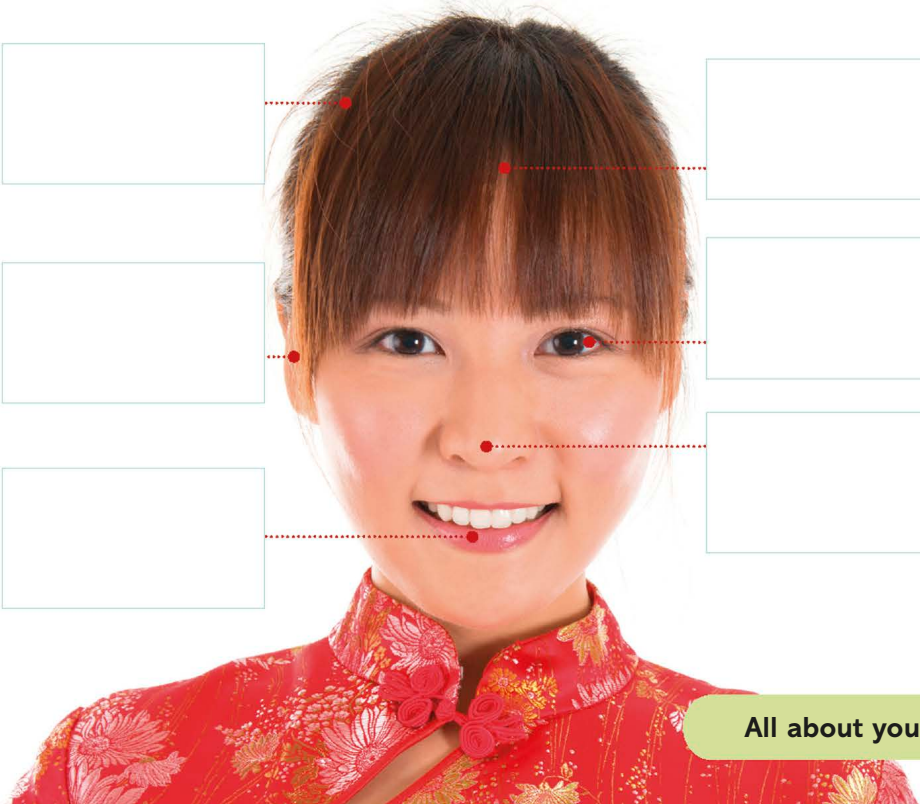
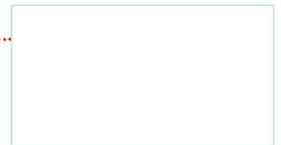
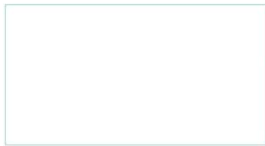
bízi
nose



zuǐba
mouth

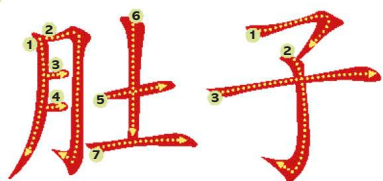


Label the girl's head with the correct characters, or pinyin... or both! Whichever you prefer.

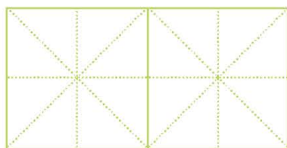
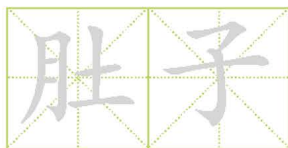


...to tail

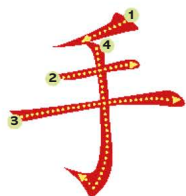
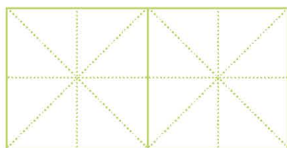
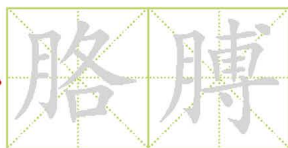
Copy the Chinese characters for the parts of the body.



dùzi
stomach



gēbo
arm



shǒu
hand



tuǐ
leg



脚

jiǎo
foot

脚

脚

Label the lady.



Sizing things up

Here are two easy characters to learn: big and small.

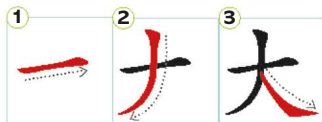


Picture it

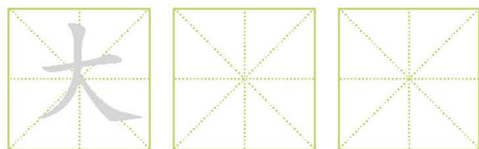
The character for “big” looks like a man with outstretched arms. Draw on hands and a head.



How to write it:



Your turn:



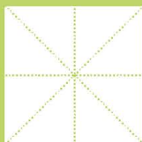
Copy the pinyin here:
.....

Big or small?

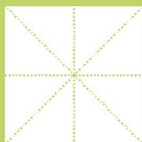
Write whether the objects are big or small in Chinese characters. *Answers on page 128.*



1



2



Itty-bitty things

With Chinese characters, small details matter. For example, 小, take note of the little dots each side, and the little flick up to the left on the down stroke.



xiǎo

small

(pronounced "sh-yaow")

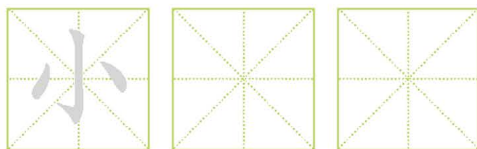
Remember, all Chinese characters take up the same amount of space on the paper and there is an equal distance between each one.

学习中文很有意思。中文的字很漂亮。我喜欢学习中文。你呢？

How to write it:



Your turn:



Copy the pinyin here:

.....



3



4



De-der!

This character is the most common character in Chinese. Its meaning isn't too glamorous. It's the possessive particle.

No.1

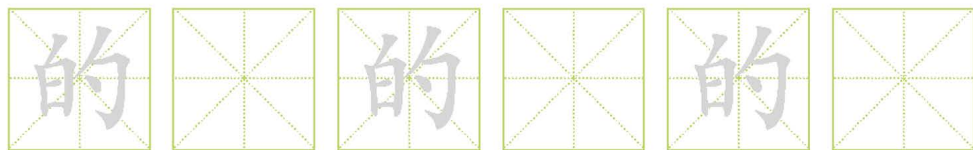
的

de
[possessive
particle]

How to write it:



Your turn:



“De” can be added to just about anything as a connector. It shows possession. For example, in English, an apostrophe “s” is used: “the ship’s cat” means “the cat that belongs to the ship.” In Chinese, “de” is used, so you would say, “ship de cat.” That is why it is so common.

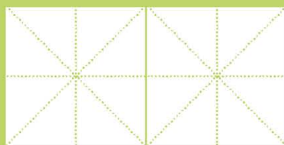
“I” into “my”

Here “de” is used to make “I” into “my,” and “you” into “your.”

我的

wǒ de
my

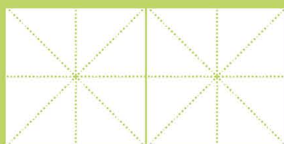
我的



你的

nǐ de
your

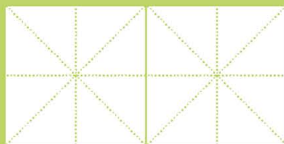
你的



他的

tā de
his

他的



她的

tā de
her

她的



“Tā de” (his) and “tā de” (her) differ only in their characters.
Note that the “woman” radical makes the difference.

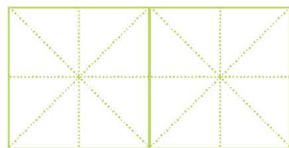
Meet the family

There are two words for brother and two for sister depending on whether older or younger.

妈 妈

māma
mother

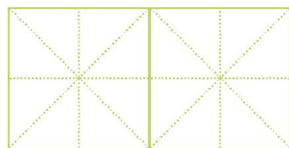
妈 妈



爸 爸

bàba
father

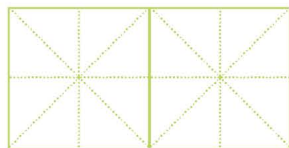
爸 爸



妹 妹

mèimei
younger sister

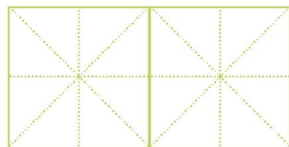
妹 妹



姐 姐

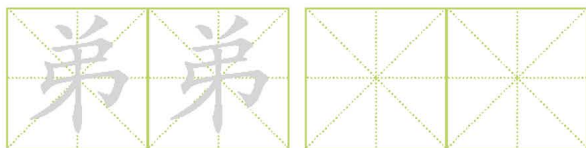
jiějie
older sister

姐 姐



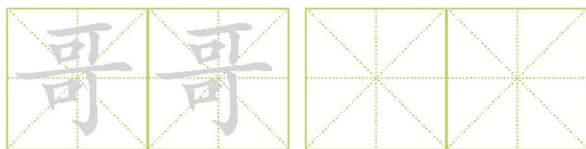
弟

dìdì
younger brother



哥

gēge
older brother



Making introductions

Knowing how to introduce someone is polite and useful.

Your turn:

这是

zhè shì
this is



Put these words together to introduce a family member.

For example:

Zhè shì + wǒ de + mèimei.
= This is my younger sister.

Write "This is my mother." in pinyin here:

Answer on page 128.



Character practice 3

Practice writing the characters from this section here.

头

头发

耳朵

眼睛

鼻子

嘴巴

肚子

胳膊

脚

手

腿

大

小

的

我的

你的

他的

More to do!

Keep going. This section includes these, too...

她的

妈妈

爸爸

妹妹

姐姐

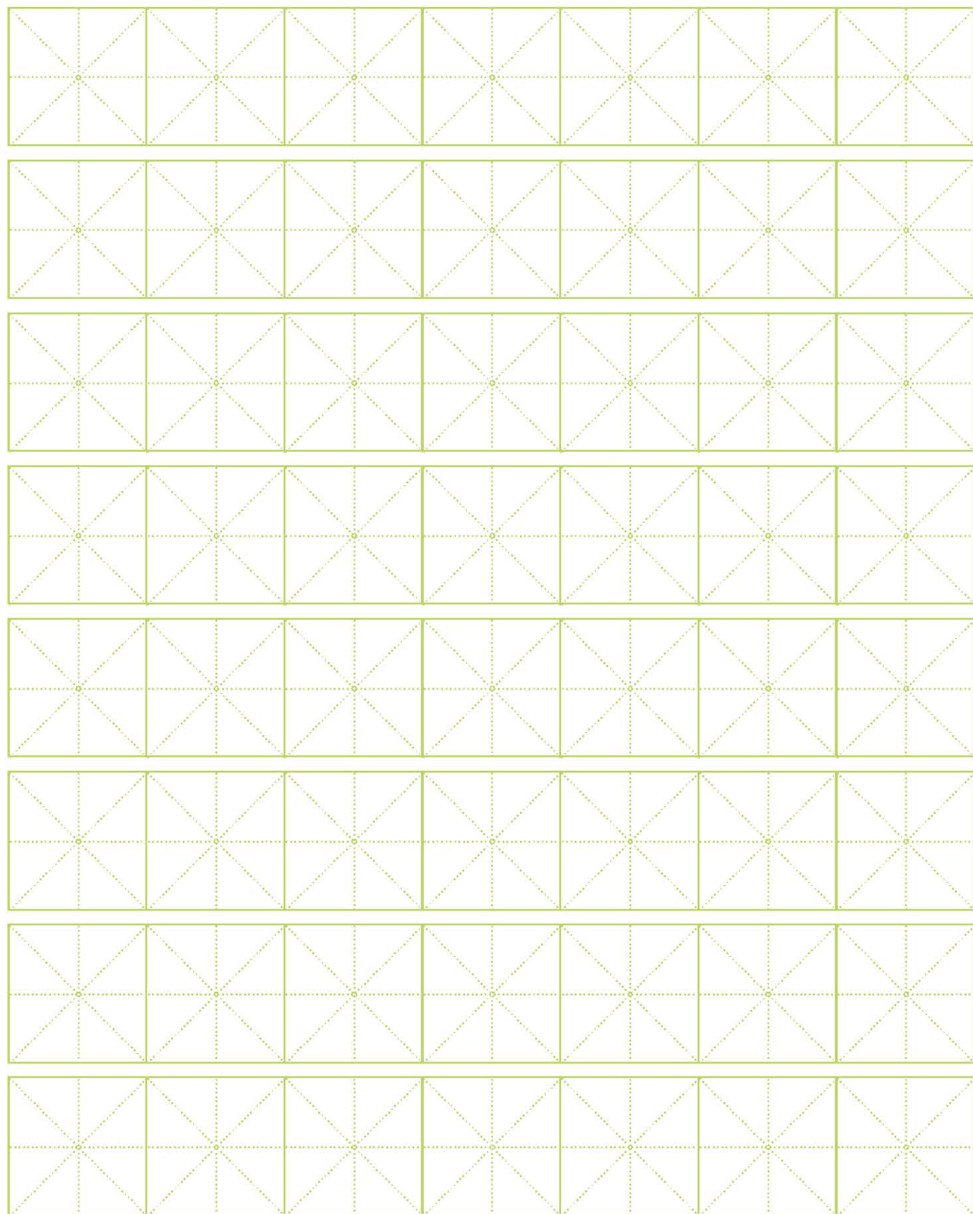
弟弟

哥哥

这是

Practice squares

Extra space for extra practice.



4 Countries

The Middle Kingdom

In ancient times, the regions around China paid tribute to the Chinese Emperor, and China came to be called the Middle Kingdom.

中国



zhōng
中 means
"middle"

guó
国 means
"kingdom"

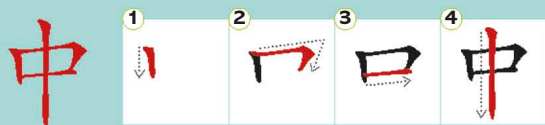
Zhōngguó
China



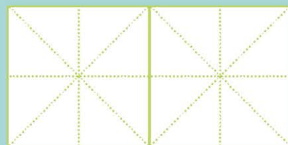
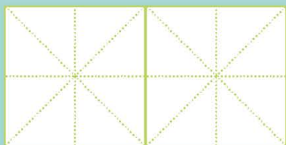
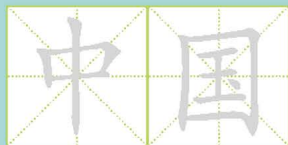
Copy the pinyin for
"China" here:

.....

How to write it:



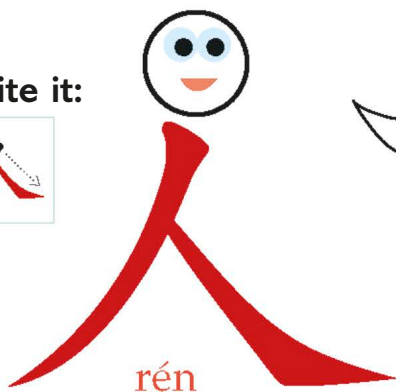
Your turn:



A character with legs

The character for “person” is an ancient pictogram and looks like two legs walking.

How to write it:

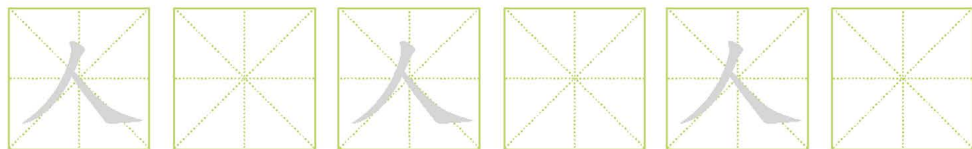


rén
person

Picture it! Draw a head and feet on the character to help you remember it.



Your turn:



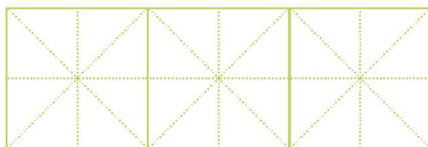
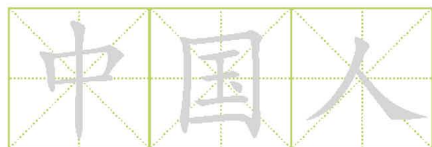
Just add “rén” to “Zhōngguó” to say “Chinese person.”

中国人

Zhōngguórén

Chinese person

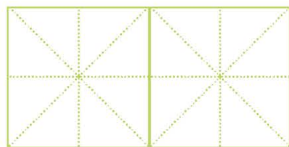
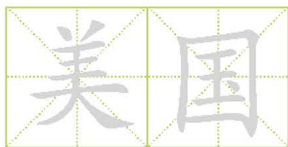
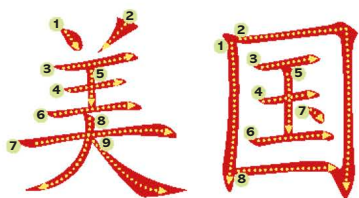
Your turn:



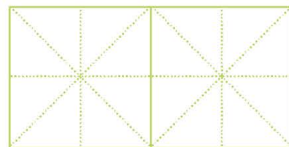
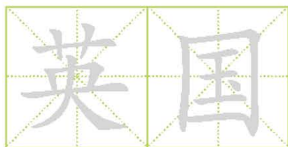
Countries of the world

In Chinese, the names of other countries are translated using characters with the appropriate sound. Or they can be literal translations, in the case of Japan.

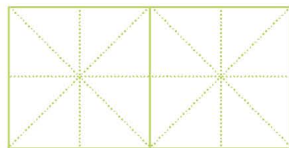
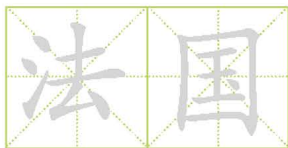
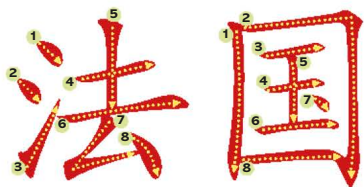
Translating the characters gives interesting, and flattering, results. Some country names are purely phonetic, however, as with “Holland” (the Netherlands).



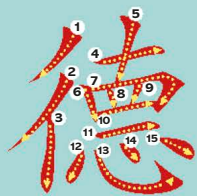
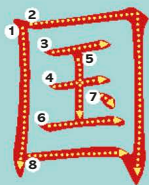
Měiguó US (beautiful country)

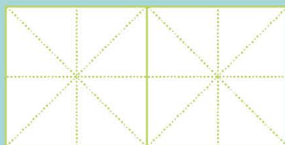


Yīngguó Britain (brave country)

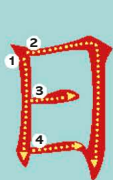
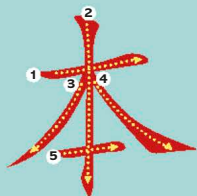
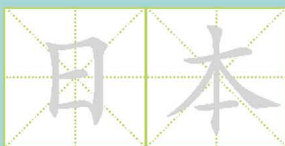
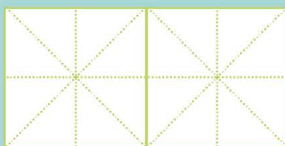


Fǎguó France (legal country)

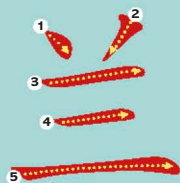



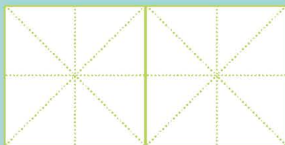


Dégúó Germany (virtuous country)

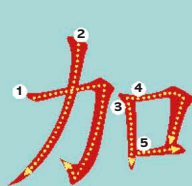





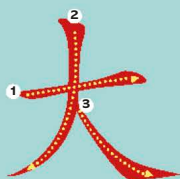
Rìběn Japan (rising sun)

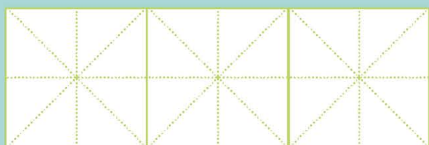


Hélán Netherlands (phonetic Holland)






Jiānádà Canada (phonetic)

Where are you from?

This is the question strangers in China will ask you before any other.

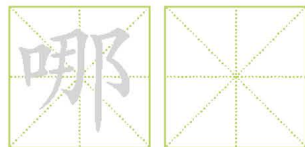
哪

nǎ
which

How to write it:



Your turn:



Copy the question and answer in the boxes provided.

你是哪国人?

Nǐ shì nǎ guó rén? Which country are you from?

我是美国人。

Wǒ shì Měiguó rén. I am American.

Geography test

Look back at the countries' names and try labeling the flags using pinyin. *Answers on page 128.*

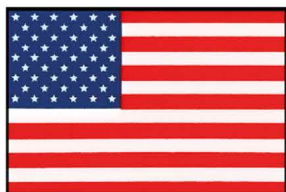
1



2



3



4



5



6

Your turn

Translate from English into pinyin.
Answers on page 128.



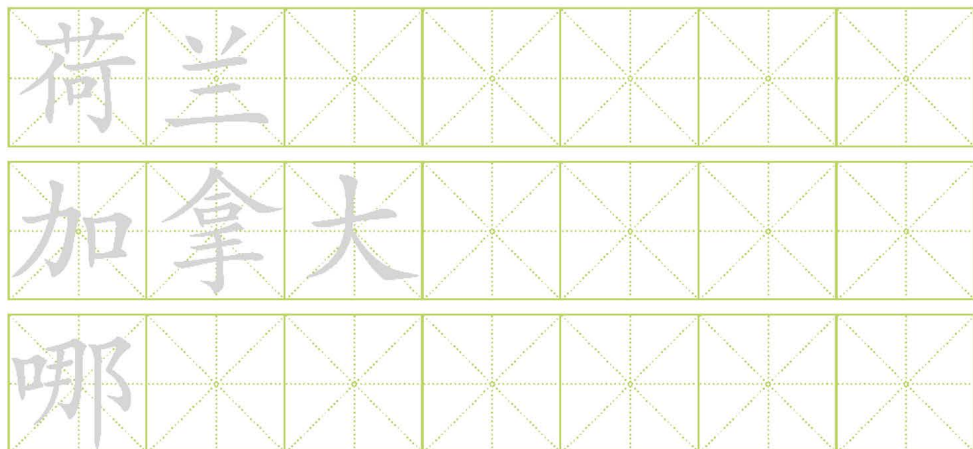
Remember, by adding “rén” to the country's name, you are saying “people” of that country.

- 1 Where are you from?
- 2 I am American.
- 3 I am French.
- 4 I am Japanese.

Character practice 4

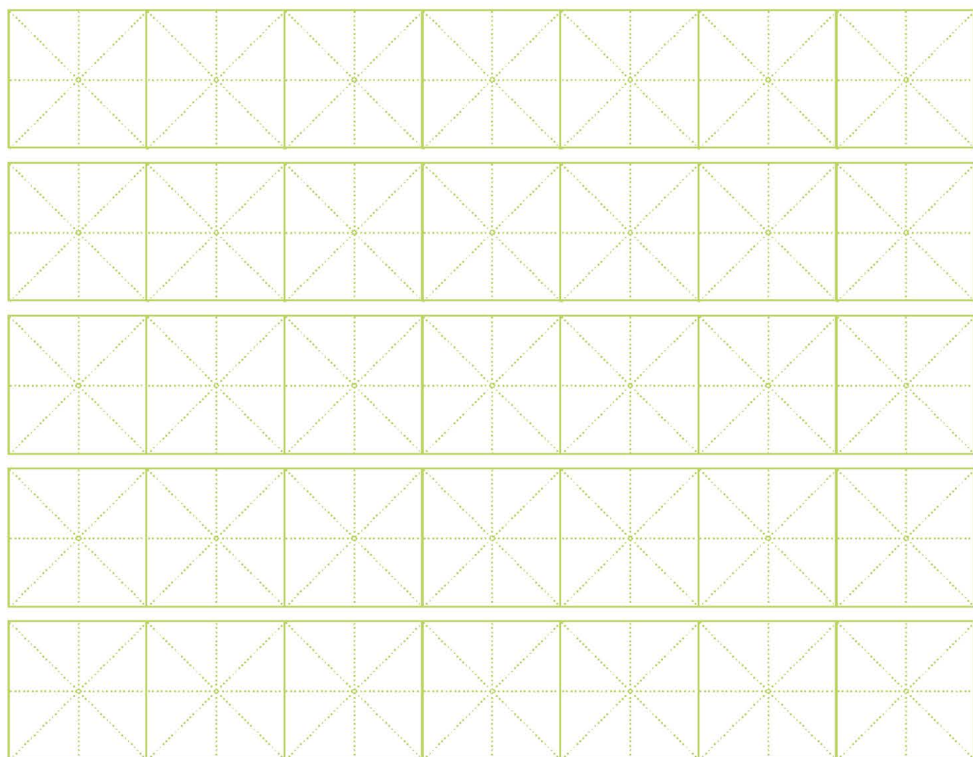
Practice writing the characters from this section here.

中	国						
人							
中	国	人					
美	国						
英	国						
法	国						
德	国						
日	本						



Practice squares

Extra space for extra practice.



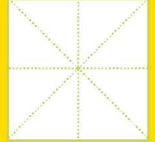
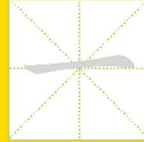
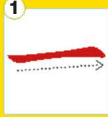
Numbers 1–10

Learning numbers 1–10 is simple and very useful. The characters for numbers 1–3 are the easiest of them all.

一

yī

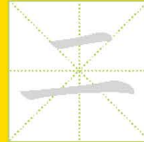
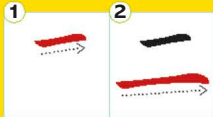
one



二

èr

two



三

sān

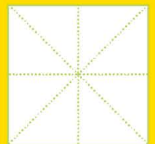
three



四

sì

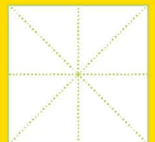
four



五

wǔ

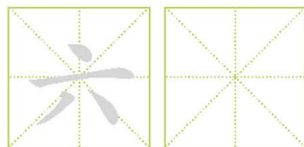
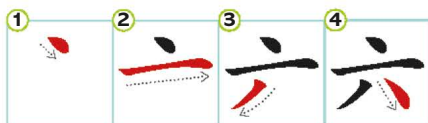
five





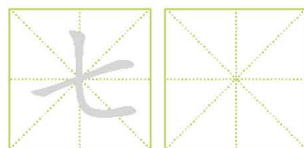
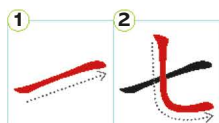
六

liù
six



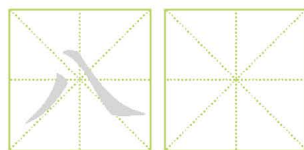
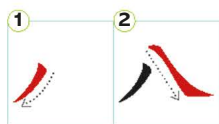
七

qī
seven



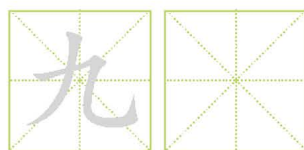
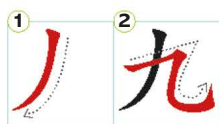
八

bā
eight



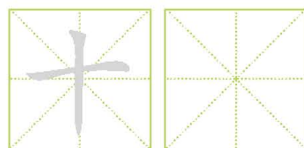
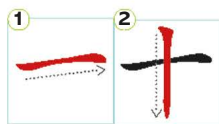
九

jiǔ
nine



十

shí
ten



10 to a million

To count above 10, it takes some simple math.

- If a number comes **after** 10 (十), you **add** it to 10.
- If a number comes **before** 10 (十), you **multiply** it by 10.

How it works...

十三	shísān	13	3 after 10 so that means $10 + 3$
三十	sānshí	30	3 before 10 so that means 3×10
三十二	sānshíèr	32	2 after and 3 before 10 so that means $(3 \times 10) + 2$

What are these numbers? *Answers on page 128.*

1 十五

5 二十三

2 四十

6 七十一

3 十八

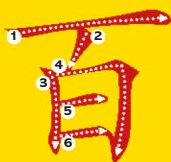
7 九十九

4 十四

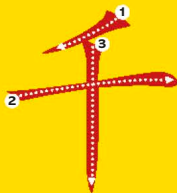
8 五十八

100 +

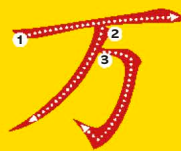
Higher numbers string together in the same way, with 10, 100 and 1,000 acting as “stops.” Practice writing the number words, then try out the math test below.



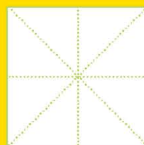
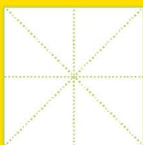
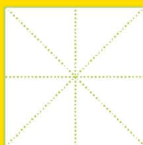
bǎi
100



qiān
1,000



wàn
10,000



Look at these numbers as an example:

四百三十

sìbǎisānshí

430

三千二百

sānqiānèrbǎi

3,200

五万

wǔwàn

50,000

Math test

Do you know what these numbers are? *Answers on page 128.*

① 二百三十

② 六万

③ 四千三百

④ 九万

Days of the week

Here, numbers 1–6 count out the days of the week.

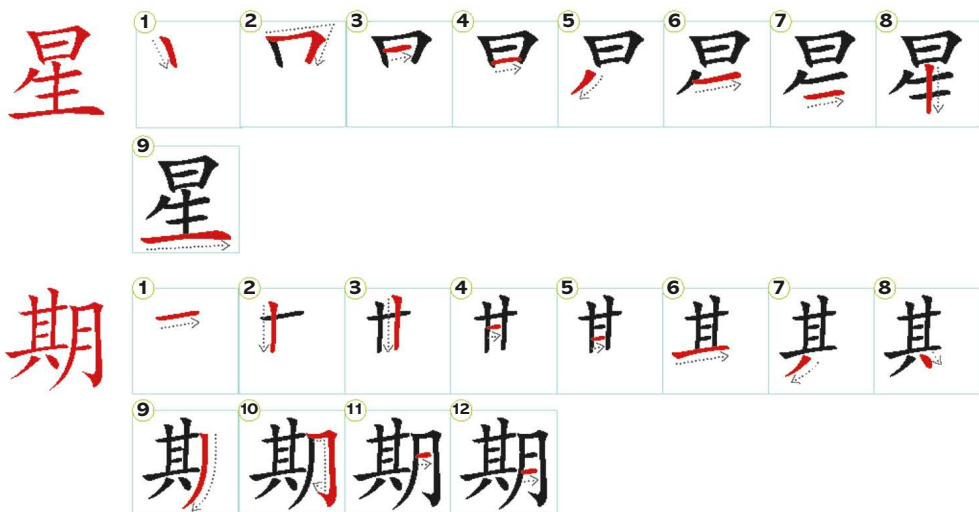
星期

xīngqī

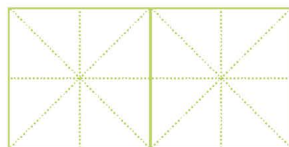
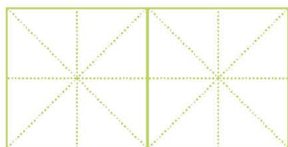
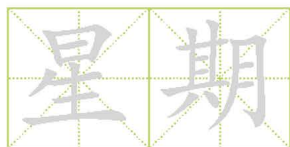
weekday

(pronounce this “shingchee”)

How to write it:



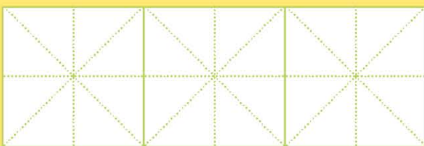
Your turn:



Once you know how to write “weekday” in Chinese, you add the numbers 1–6 to get Monday (literally “weekday 1”) to Saturday (“weekday 6”). Only Sunday is different.

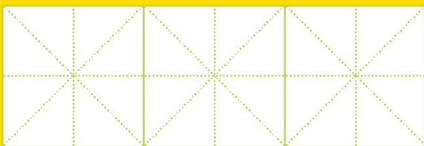
Monday
xīngqīyī

星期一



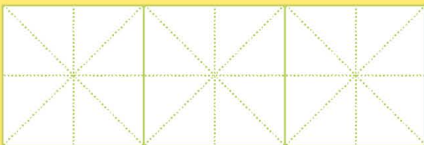
Tuesday
xīngqīèr

星期二



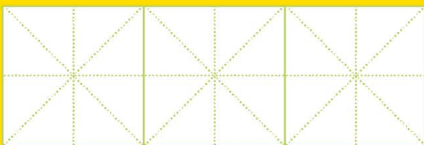
Wednesday
xīngqīsān

星期三



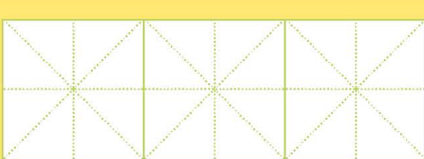
Thursday
xīngqīsì

星期四



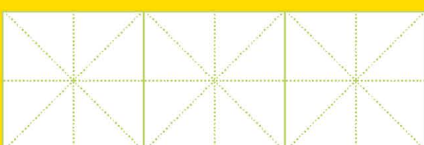
Friday
xīngqīwǔ

星期五



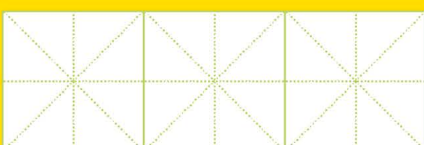
Saturday
xīngqīliù

星期六



Sunday
xīngqītiān

星期天



Months of the year

Once you've learned the basic numbers, it's also really easy to learn the months of the year.

First learn this character, which is a pictograph of the moon.

yuè
moon/month



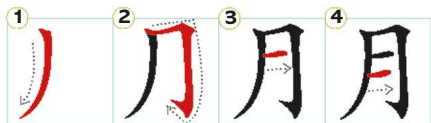
Copy the pinyin
here:

.....

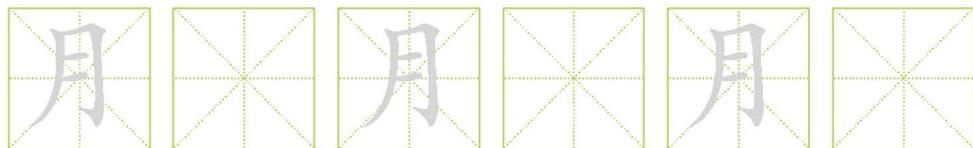
Picture it

Draw on the
character and
turn it into a
crescent moon.

How to write it:



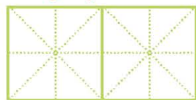
Your turn:



January

一月

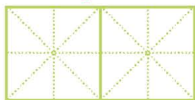
yīyuè



February

二月

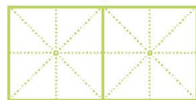
èryuè



March

三月

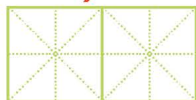
sānyuè



April

四月

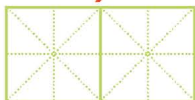
sìyuè



May

五月

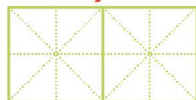
wǔyuè



June

六月

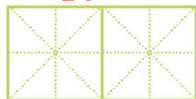
liùyuè



July

七月

qīyuè



August

八月

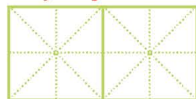
bāyuè



September

九月

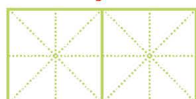
jiǔyuè



October

十月

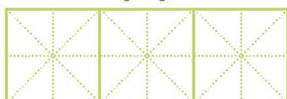
shíyuè



November

十一月

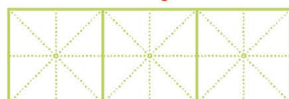
shíyīyuè



December

十二月

shíèryuè



Birthday party

Nowadays, people in China are likely to celebrate their birthdays with a cake and by singing "Happy Birthday" (in Mandarin of course).

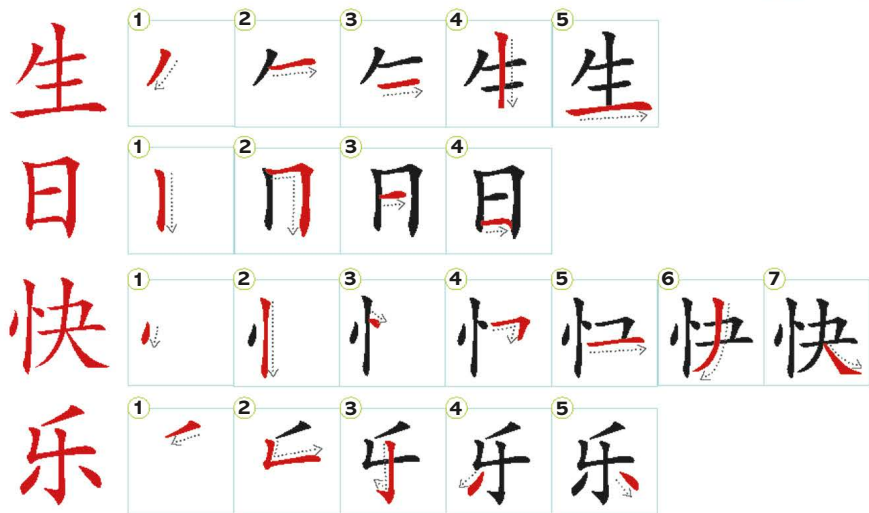
生日快乐!

Shēngrì kuàilè!

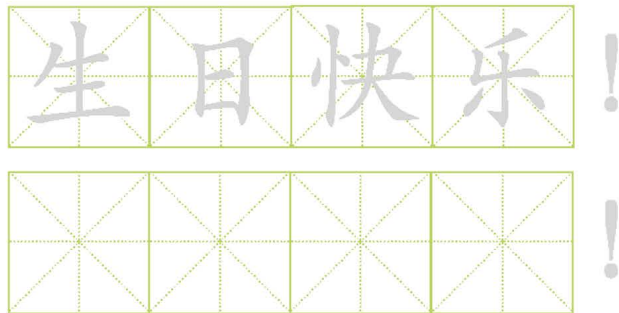
Happy Birthday!



How to write it:

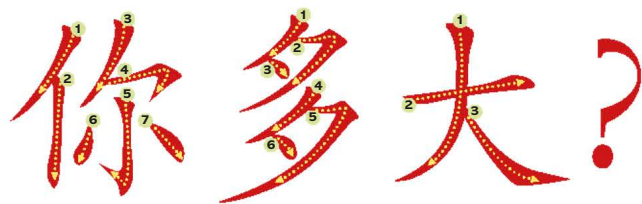


Your turn:



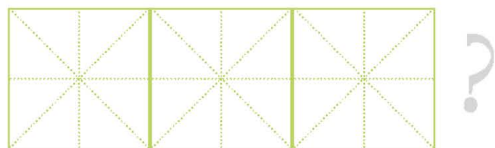
How old are you?

There are two ways to ask this question in Chinese. The first is for adults and older children:



Nǐ duō dà?
How old are you?

Your turn:



The second is for
children under ten:

你几岁?

Nǐ jǐ suì?
How old are you?

Answer the question
using your number
knowledge by
inserting your age in
the spaces provided.

我.....岁。

Wǒ suì.

I'm years old.

Character practice 5

Practice writing the characters from this section here.

一							
二							
三							
四							
五							
六							
七							
八							

九

十

百

千

万

星期一

星期二

星期三

星期四

More to do!

Keep going. This section includes these, too...

星期五

星期六

星期天

一月

二月

三月

四月

五月

六月

七月

八月

九月

十月

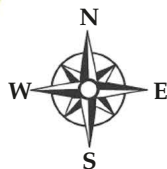
十一月

十二月

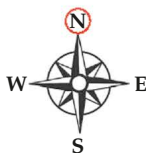
生日快乐

6 Weather

North to south



China is big and major cities experience different weather.



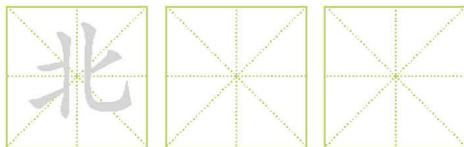
北

běi
north

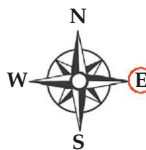
How to write it:



Your turn:



Beijing (literally meaning “northern capital”) is in north China. It’s hot in the summer, and below freezing in the winter.



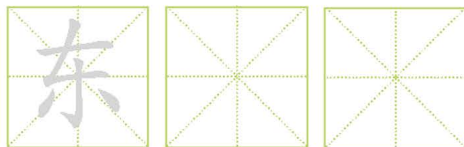
东

dōng
east

How to write it:



Your turn:



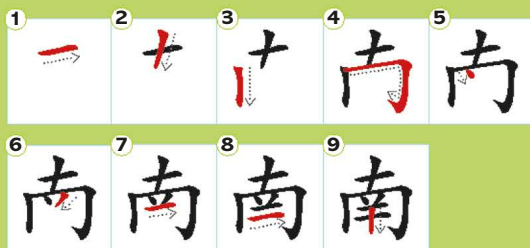
Shanghai is in the east. It has a warm spring, a hot, rainy summer, a cool fall, and a cold winter.



南

nán
south

How to write it:



Your turn:



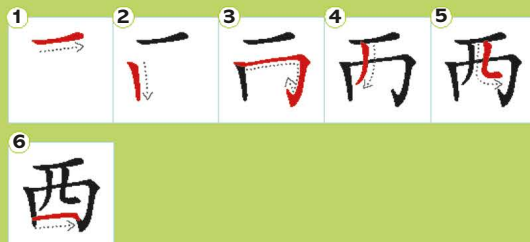
Guangzhou (Canton) is in the south.
It has warm winters and hot, humid summers.



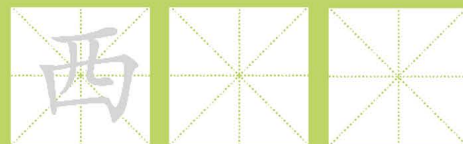
西

xī
west

How to write it:



Your turn:



Chengdu is in the west. It's warm in spring, humid in summer, rainy in the fall, and the winter is cold.

Seasons

The seasons in China vary depending on where you are.



First learn the character common to them all, then practice writing the seasons in the boxes.

天

tiān
day/heaven

Picture it

See how the character has formed:

人 person
大 big
天 heaven

What is bigger than people? Heaven!

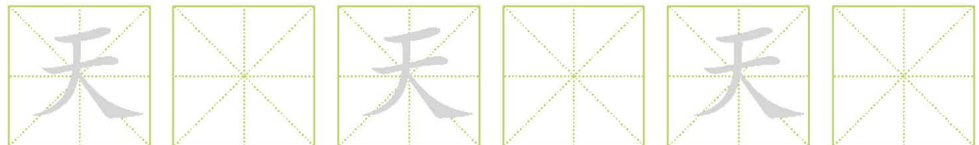
How to write it:



Copy the pinyin here:

.....

Your turn:





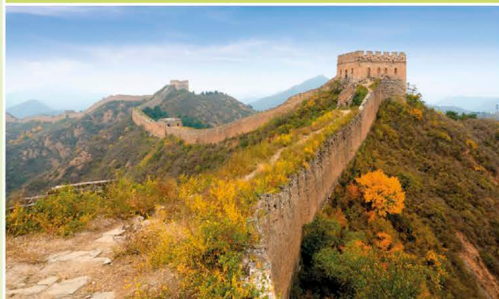
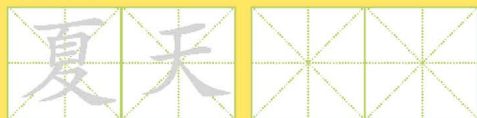
春天

chūntiān spring



夏天

xiàtiān summer



秋天

qiūtiān fall



冬天

dōngtiān winter



Weather words

Find out the weather forecast... in Chinese.

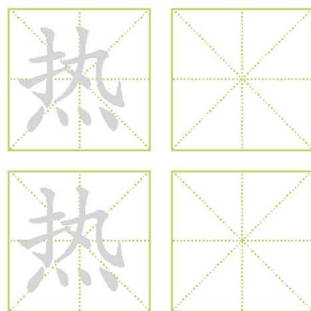
热
rè
hot



How to write it:



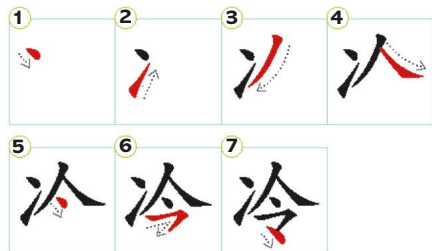
Your turn:



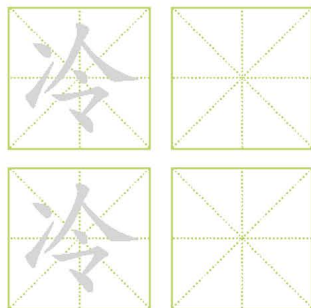
冷
lěng
cold



How to write it:



Your turn:



下雨

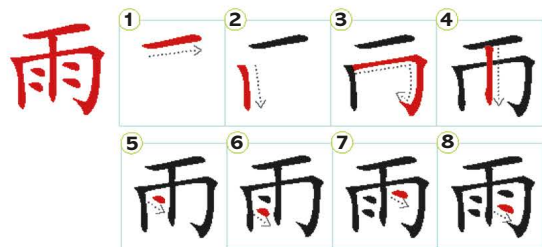
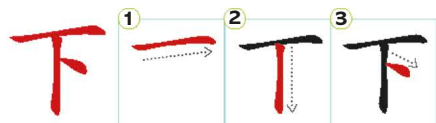
xià yǔ

rainy

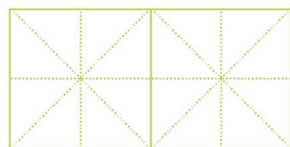
(pronounced "shar yoo")



How to write it:



Your turn:



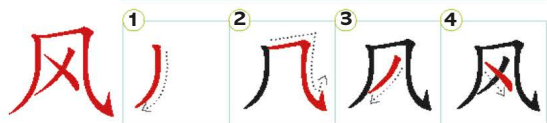
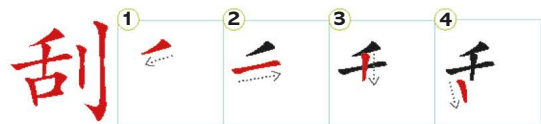
刮风

guā fēng

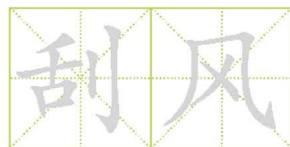
windy

(pronounced "guh-wah fung")

How to write it:



Your turn:



Character practice 6

Practice writing the characters from this section here.

北

东

南

西

天

春天

夏天

秋天

冬天

热

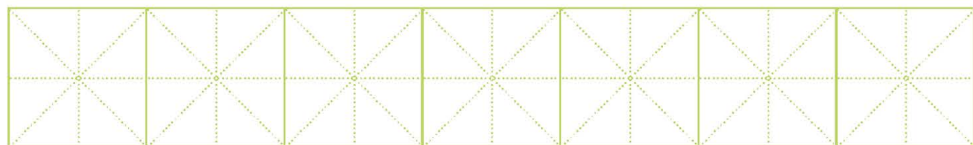
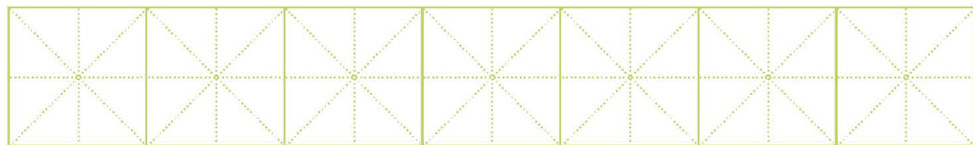
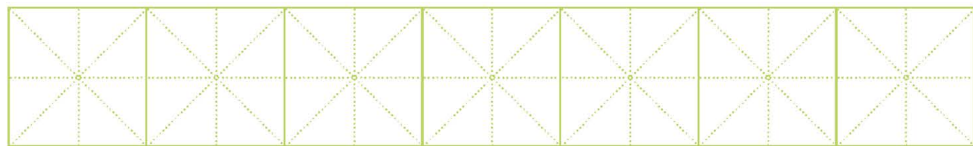
冷

下雨

刮风

Practice squares

Extra space for extra practice.



7 Transportation

Traffic report

Knowing the words for “car,” “bus,” and “train” is useful when traveling on China’s public transportation system.

First learn this character:

车

chē

vehicle

(pronounced “ch-uh”)



Copy the pinyin here:

.....

Picture it

This character was originally a pictograph of a horse-drawn carriage (as seen from above).

車

seal script

車

Traditional character
(used in Taiwan and Hong Kong)

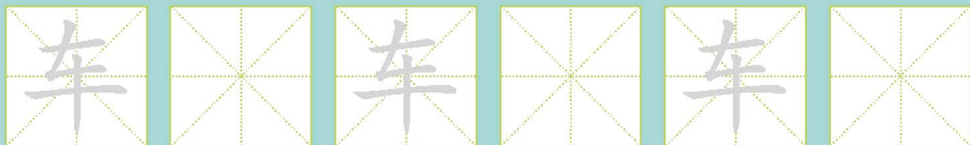
车

Simplified character
(used in mainland China and Singapore)

How to write it:



Your turn:

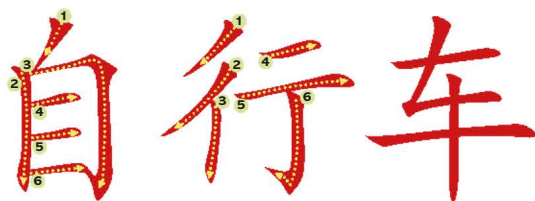


Traffic jam

All these transportation types use “che”
 (“vehicle”) at the end, except for “airplane.”
 (“Feiji” literally means “flying machine.”)



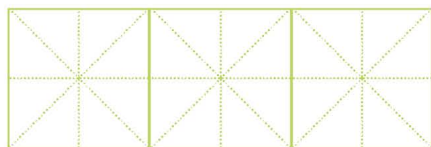
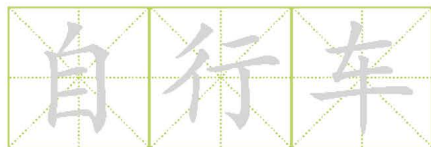
Your turn:



zìxíngchē

bicycle

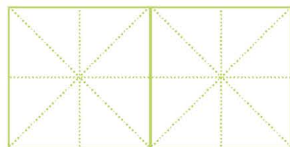
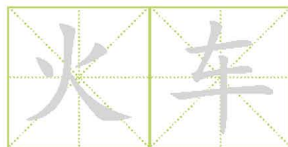
(pronounced “z-uh shing ch-uh”)



huǒchē

train

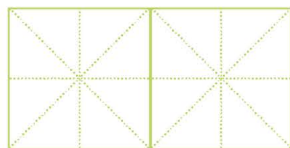
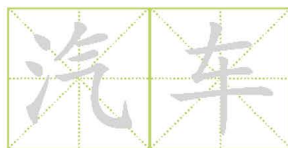
Your turn:



qìchē

car

Your turn:



出租车

chūzūchē

taxi



Honk!



公共汽车

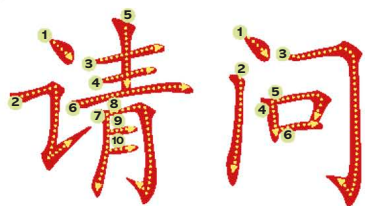
gōnggòngqìchē

bus



Finding the way

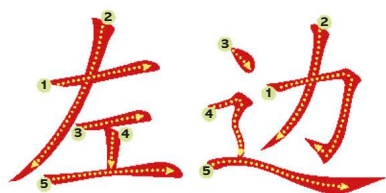
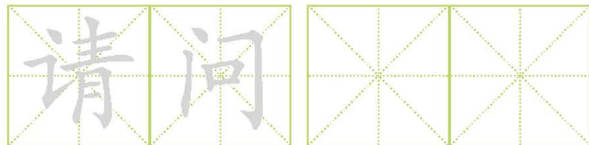
Make being lost in China a thing of the past with these useful words.



qǐngwèn

excuse me

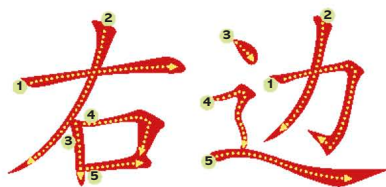
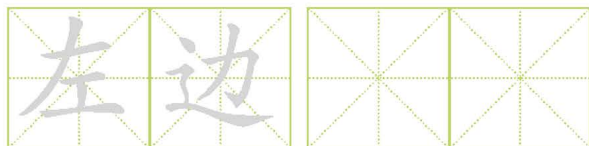
Your turn:



zuǒbiān

left

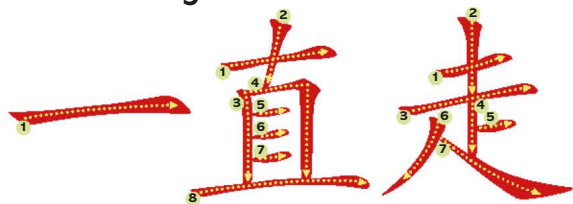
Your turn:



yòubiān

right

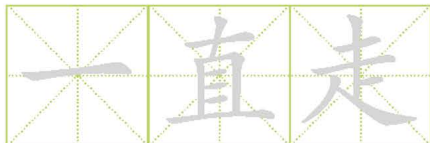
Your turn:



yìzhí zǒu

straight

Your turn:



Give directions



Try giving directions to the lost tourist. Number the directions in the right order. *Answers on page 128.*

1 请问。饭店在哪儿?

Qǐngwèn. Fàndiàn zài nǎr?

Excuse me. Where is the restaurant?

yòubiān



yìzhíǒu



zuǒbiān



2 请问。茶馆在哪儿?

Qǐngwèn. Cháguǎn zài nǎr?

Excuse me. Where is the tea shop?

zuǎbiān



yòubiān



yìzhíǒu



Telling the time

If you are going somewhere, you will need to know what time your bus or train is leaving.

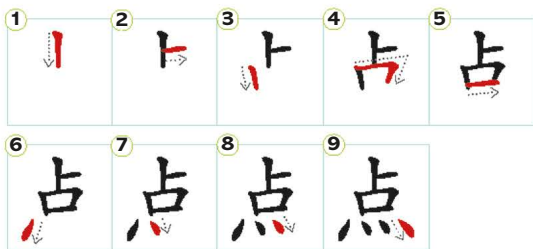
Follow these three rules:

- 1 Add “diǎn” to a number to say “o’clock.”
For example, “sān diǎn” is “three o’clock.”
- 2 Add “diǎn bàn” to say “half past.” For example, “sān diǎn bàn” is “half past three.”
- 3 Add however many “fēn” (minutes) to make other times. For example, “sān diǎn èrshí fēn” is “3:20”—literally “3 o’clock, 20 minutes.”

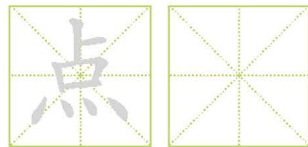
Practice the new characters first.

点

diǎn
o’clock



Your turn:

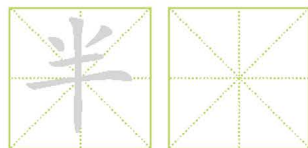


半

bàn
half

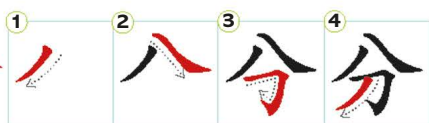


Your turn:

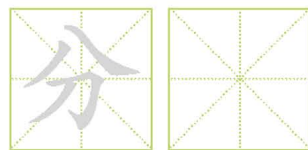


分

fēn
minute

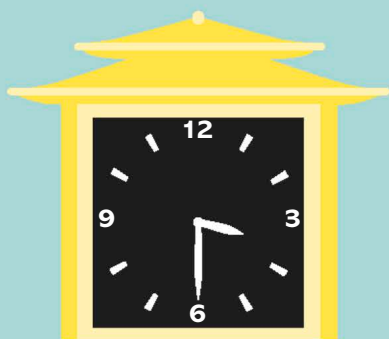


Your turn:



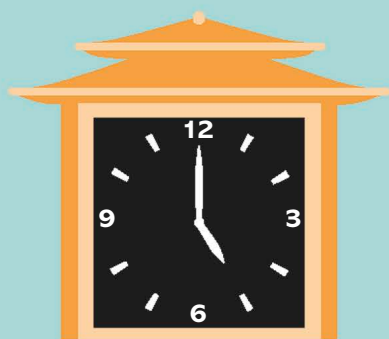
Now try to tell the time on the clocks. Follow the example. *Answers on page 128.*

1

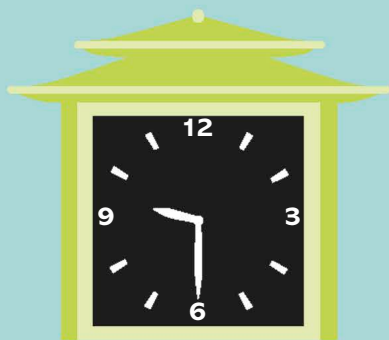


sān diǎn bàn

2



3



4



Buying a ticket

Asking to buy a ticket is the final step.

I want to buy a ticket to Beijing.

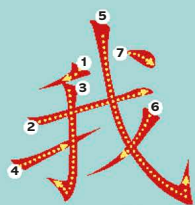
Here's how to ask:

我想买票。去北京。

Wǒ xiǎng mǎi piào. Qù Běijīng.



Here is the vocabulary broken down. Practice each word individually in the boxes.



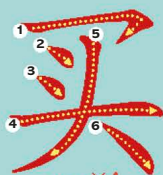
wǒ
I

Your turn:



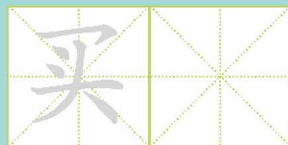
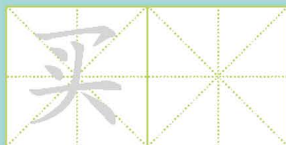
xiǎng
to want

Your turn:



mǎi
to buy

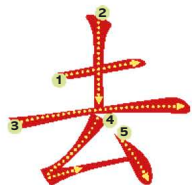
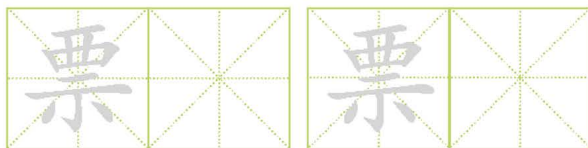
Your turn:





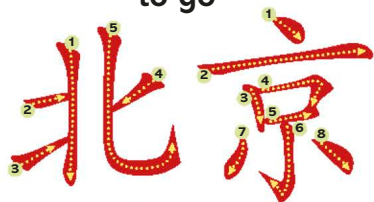
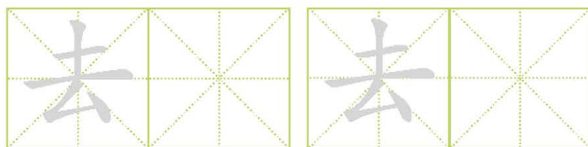
piào
ticket

Your turn:



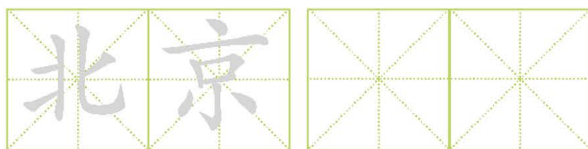
qù
to go

Your turn:

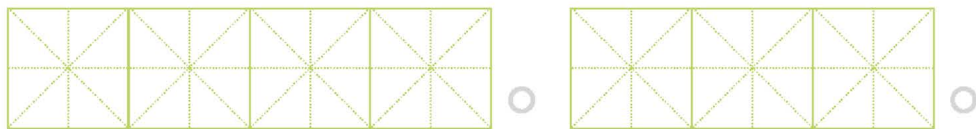


Běijīng
Beijing

Your turn:



Now put the words together (note there are two sentences in Chinese).



Here are the simple answers you can expect to hear.



没有。Méi yǒu.

I don't have one.
(pronounced "may yo")

有。Yǒu.

I have one.
(pronounced "yo")



Character practice 7

Practice writing the characters from this section here.

车

自行车

火车

汽车

请问

左边

右边

一直走

点

半

分

我

想

买

票

去

北 京

Chopsticks and bowl

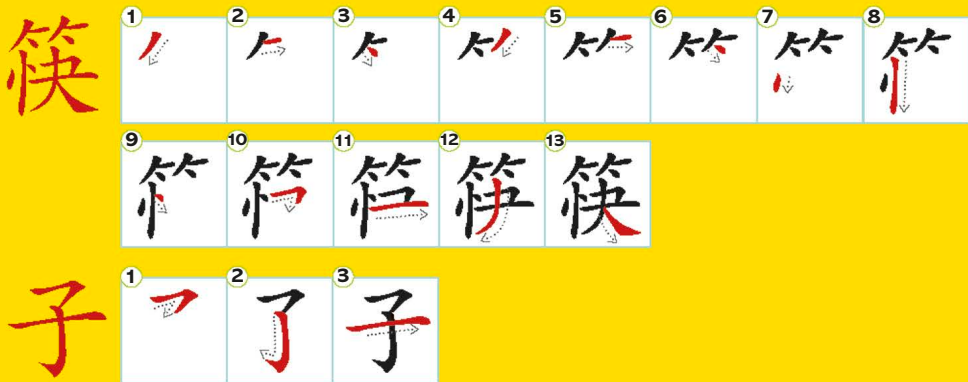
When in China, eating with chopsticks is the norm.

筷子

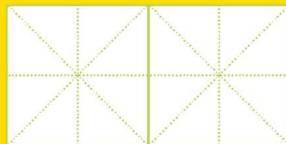
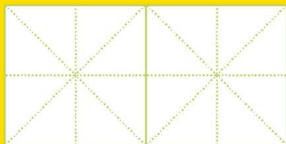
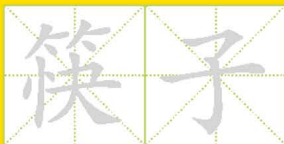
kuàizi
chopsticks



How to write it:



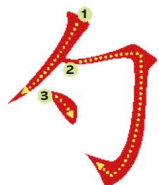
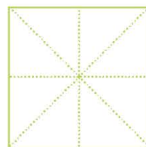
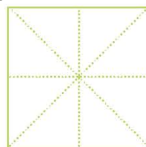
Your turn:



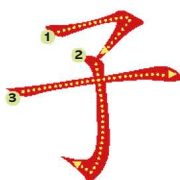


wǎn
bowl

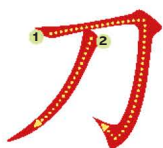
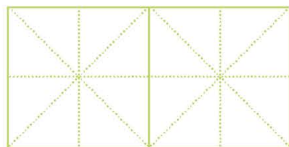
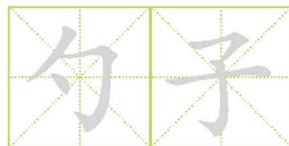
Your turn:



sháozi
spoon

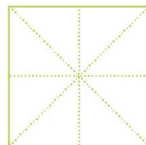
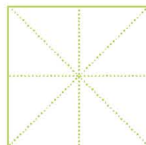
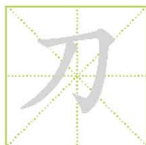


Your turn:



dāo
knife

Your turn:



chā
fork

Your turn:

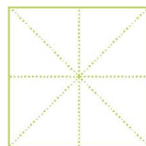
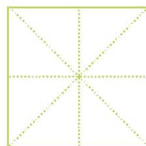


Table talk

Impress people at your next Chinese meal by knowing some useful foodie phrases.

很好吃!

Hěn hǎo chī!

It's delicious!

Your turn:

很好吃!



Copy the
pinyin here:

.....

.....



我自己来。

Wǒ zìjǐ lái.

I'll help myself.

Your turn:

我自己来

--	--	--	--	--



Copy the pinyin here:

.....

.....

我吃饱了。

Wǒ chī bǎo le.

Your turn:

I'm full.

我吃饱了

--	--	--	--	--



Copy the pinyin here:

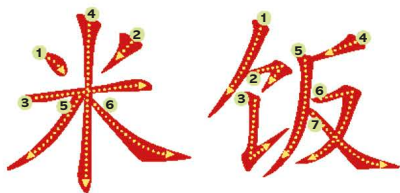
.....

.....

Reading a menu

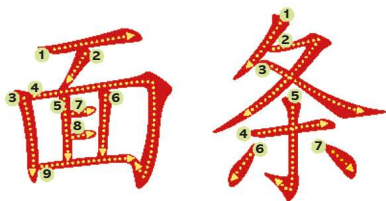
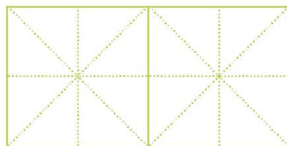
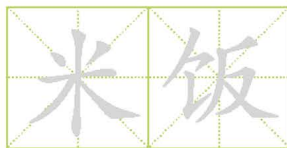
Look at the menu and choose a delicious dish.

Copy the characters.



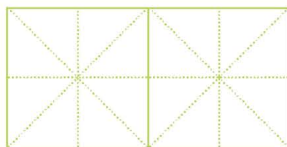
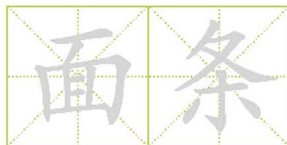
mǐfàn
rice

Your turn:



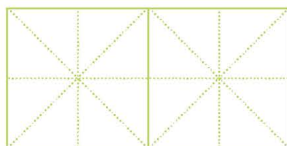
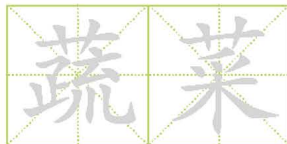
miàntiáo
noodles

Your turn:



shūcài
vegetables

Your turn:

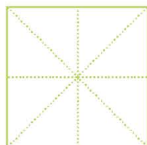




yú

fish

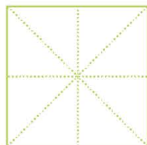
Your turn:



jī

chicken

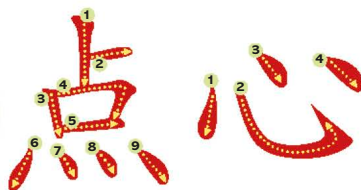
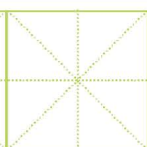
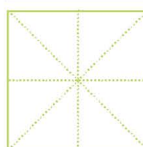
Your turn:



shuǐguǒ

fruit

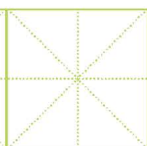
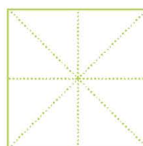
Your turn:



diǎnxīn

dim sum

Your turn:



Restaurant words

You've chosen what you want to eat, now you need to communicate with the server.

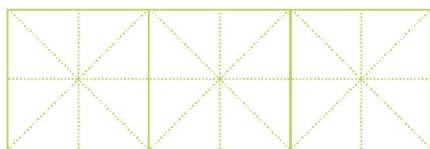
服务员

fúwùyuán

waiter/server

Your turn:

服务员



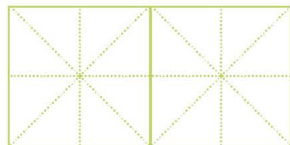
菜单

càidān

menu

Your turn:

菜单



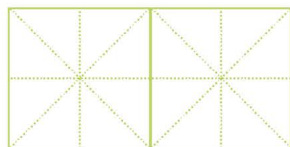
饭店

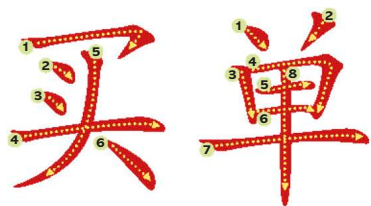
fàndiàn

restaurant

Your turn:

饭店

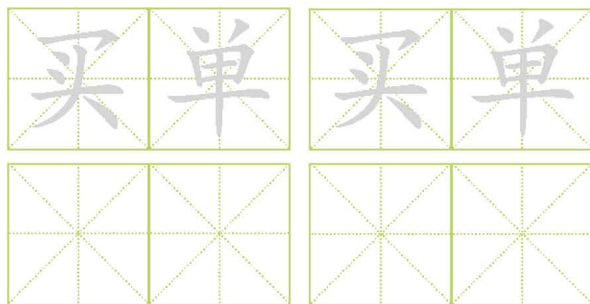




mǎidān

bill

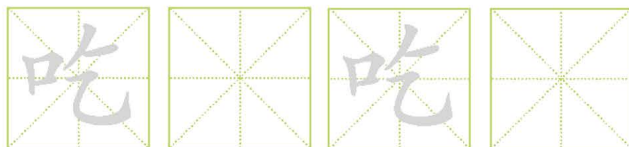
Your turn:



chī

to eat

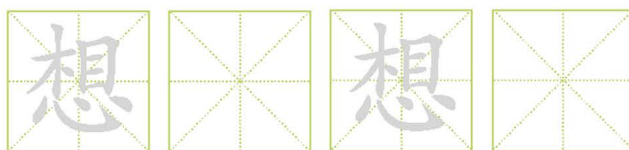
Your turn:



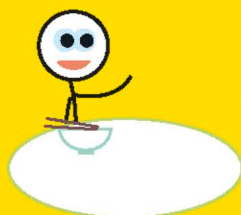
xiǎng

to want

Your turn:



Look at the speech bubble. Can you guess what the person is saying? Answer on page 128.



“Fúwùyuán, wǒ xiǎng
chī diǎnxīn.”

.....
.....

Character practice 8

Practice writing the characters from this section here.

筷子

碗

勺子

刀

叉

很好吃

我自己来

我吃饱了

米饭

面条

蔬菜

鱼

鸡

水果

点心

More to do!

Keep going. This section includes these, too...

服务员

菜单

饭店

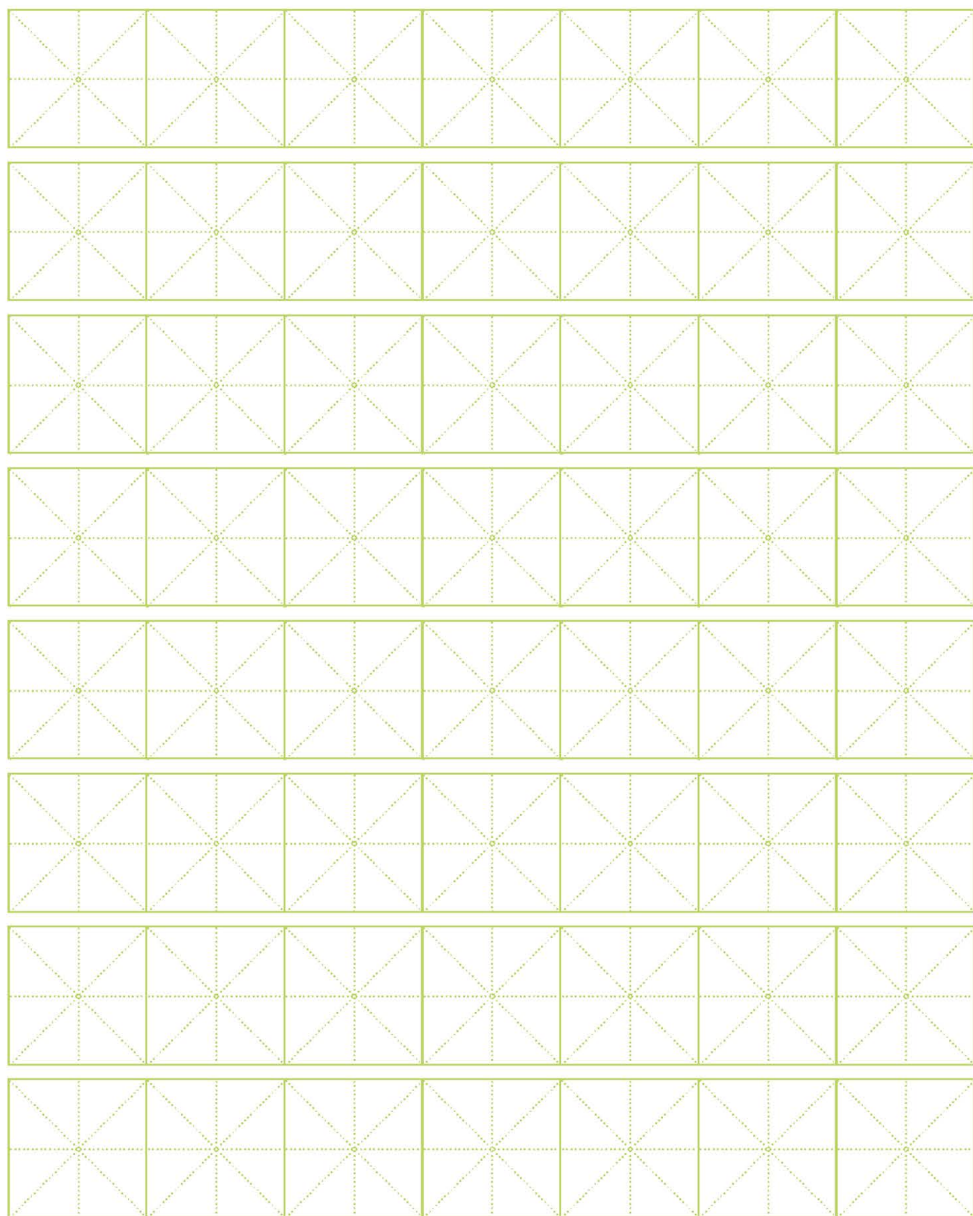
买单

吃

想

Practice squares

Extra space for extra practice!



9 Fun and games

Hobbies

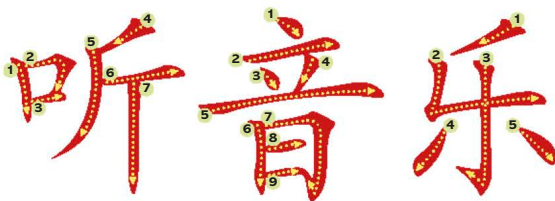
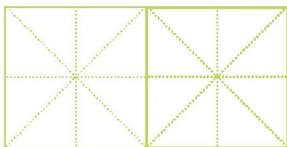
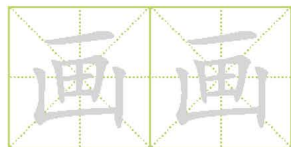
As well as learning Chinese, you may have other hobbies.



huà huà
painting

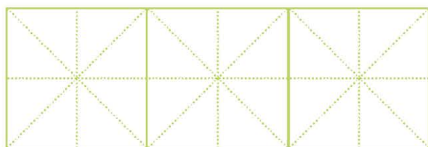
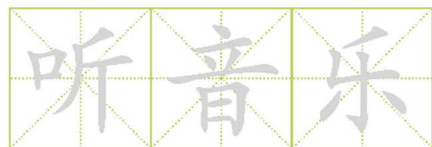


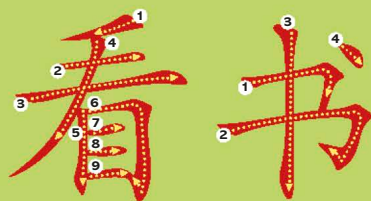
Your turn:



tīng yīnyuè
listening to music

Your turn:





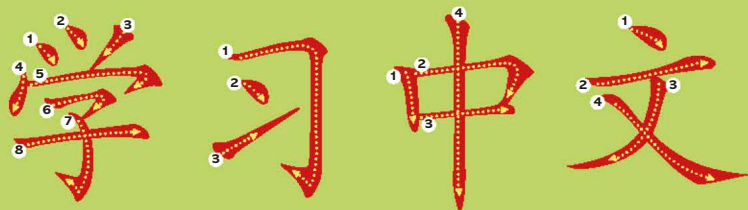
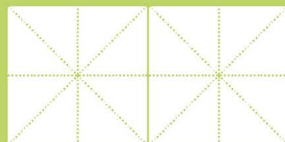
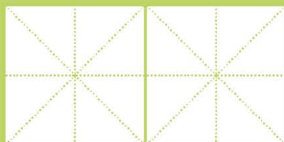
kàn shū

reading

(pronounced "kan shoo")



Your turn:

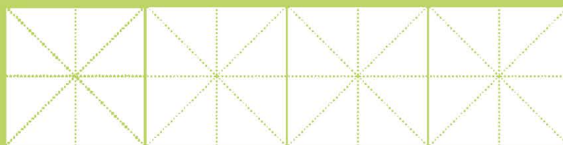
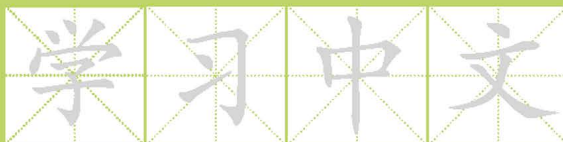


xuéxí Zhōngwén

learning Chinese

(pronounced "shoo-ay-shee jong-wen")

Your turn:



Ball games

Sports are an important part of life in China.
Soccer and basketball are the most popular.



First learn this key character:

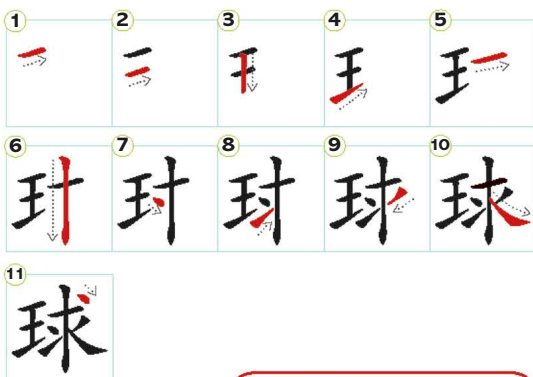
球

qiú

ball

(pronounced "chee-oo")

How to write it:



Copy the pinyin here:

.....

Your turn:



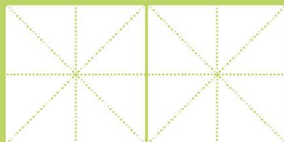
网 球

wǎngqiú

tennis

Your turn:

网 球



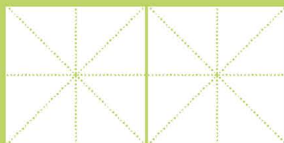
足 球

zúqiú

soccer

Your turn:

足 球



篮 球

lánqiú

basketball

Your turn:

篮 球



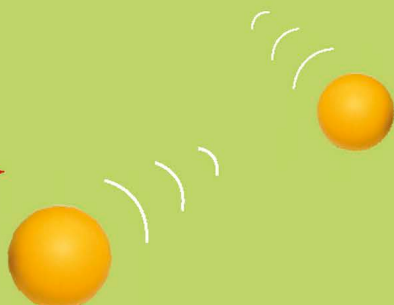
乒 乓 球

pīngpāngqiú

table tennis

Your turn:

乒 乓 球



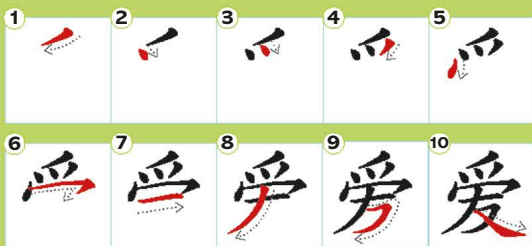
Like it/love it

Learn how to say "I love you" in Chinese.

爱

ài
to love
(pronounced "I")

How to write it:



Copy the pinyin
here:

.....

Your turn:



我爱你。

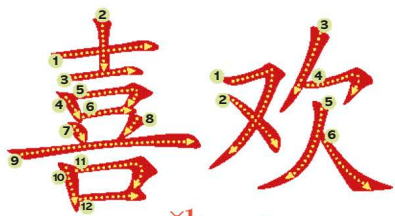
Wǒ ài nǐ.
I love you.
(pronounced "war I knee")



Saying “boo”

Now learn how to say you like, or don't like, things.

First practice writing these characters:

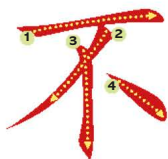
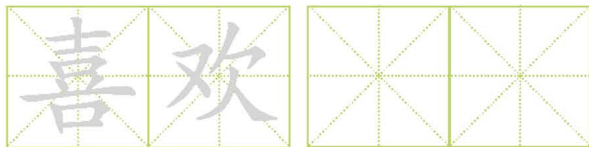


xǐhuan

to like

(pronounced “shee-hoo-an”)

Your turn:

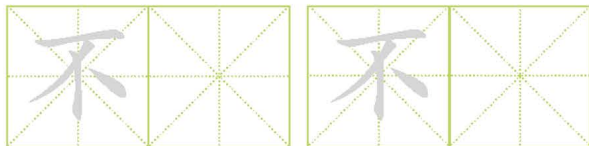


bù

not/no

(pronounced “boo”)

Your turn:



To say you like a sport, you say:

我**喜欢**乒乓球。

Wǒ xǐhuan pīngpāngqiú.

I like table tennis.

To say you don't like something, you add “bù” in front of the verb:

我**不喜欢**网球。

Wǒ bù xǐhuan wǎngqiú.

I don't like tennis.

Character practice 9

Practice writing the characters from this section here.

画画

听音乐

看书

学习中文

球

网球

足球

篮球

乒乓球

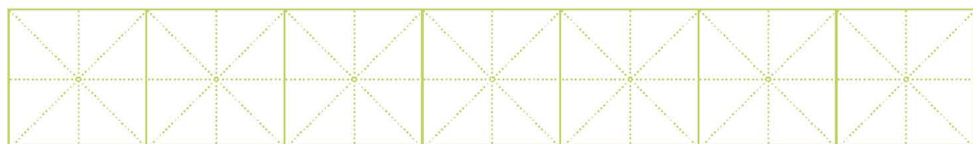
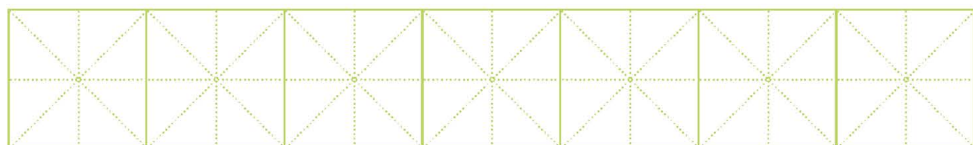
爱

喜欢

不

Practice squares

Extra space for extra practice.



Beijing

The thriving capital city of China is home to beautiful palaces and a hundred-acre city square. Around Beijing, you can see...

看

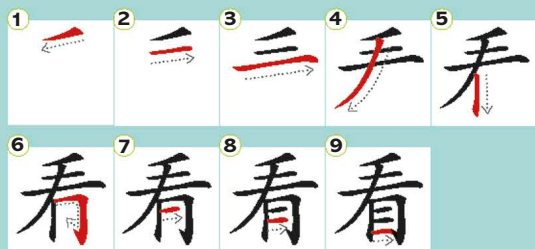
kàn
to see

Picture it

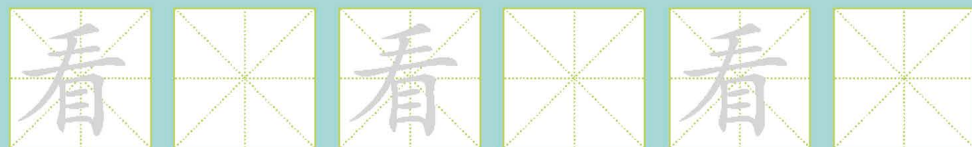
看 kàn "to see" includes a hand above an eye, as though shielding your eyes from the sun.



How to write it:



Your turn:





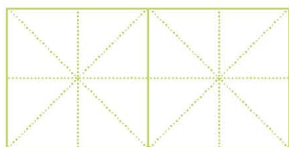
长 城

Chángchéng

The Great Wall

Your turn:

长 城



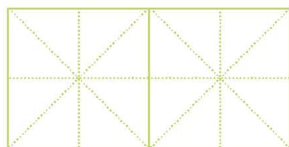
故 宫

Gùgōng

The Forbidden City

Your turn:

故 宫



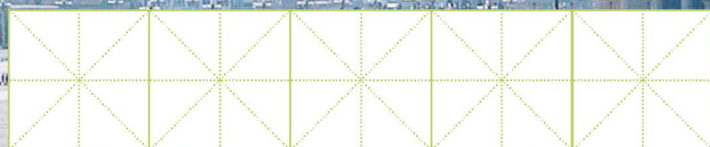
天 安 门 广 场

Tiān'ānmén Guǎngchǎng

Tiananmen Square

Your turn:

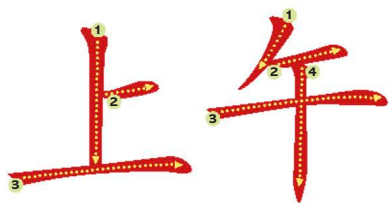
天 安 门 广 场



A day in the country

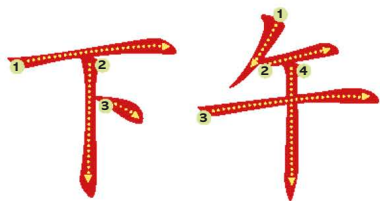
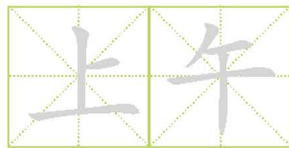
China is not all big cities. It has a beautiful and varied countryside.

First learn the characters for morning and afternoon.



shàngwǔ
morning

Your turn:



xiàwǔ
afternoon

Your turn:



Picture it

This might help you remember the characters.



above

shàng

上

+



= morning



under

xià

下

+

wǔ

midday

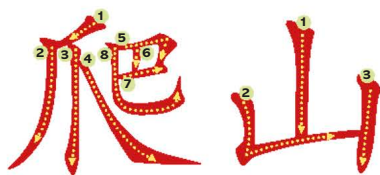
= afternoon

Plan your day

Now say what you are going to do in the morning and afternoon.

Write the characters in the boxes.

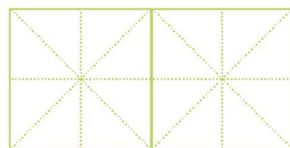
Morning 上午 



pá shān

climb a mountain

Your turn:



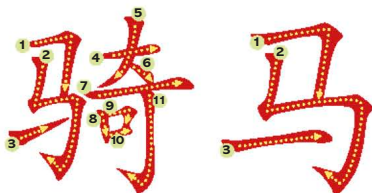
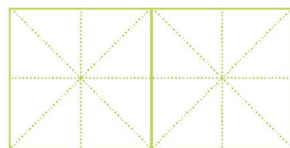
Afternoon 下午 



zuò chuán

take a boat ride

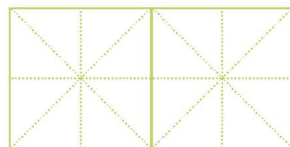
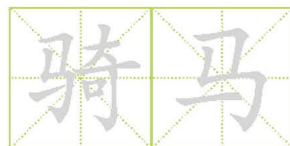
Your turn:



qí mǎ

ride a horse

Your turn:



Useful phrases

These phrases will help you get by in China.

请你再说。

Qǐng nǐ zài shuō.

Please can you say it again.
(pronounced “ching knee z-eye sh-war”)

Your turn:

请你再说。

你说英文吗?

Nǐ shuō Yīngwén ma?

Do you speak English?

Your turn:

你说英文吗?

我听不懂。

Wǒ tīng bù dǒng.

I don't understand.

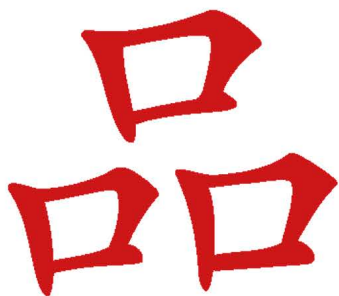
Your turn:

我听不懂。



Shopping list

Need some souvenirs? Time to go shopping!



pǐn

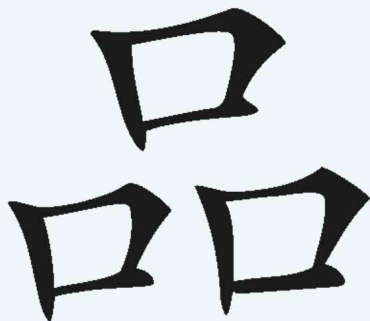
thing/article



Getting the stroke order right for boxes is useful as they often appear in Chinese characters.

Picture it

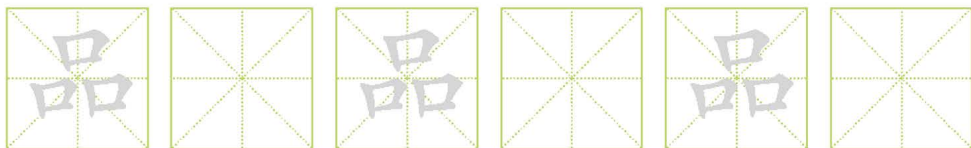
The character shows three containers. Draw some things you would like to buy in the boxes.



How to write it:



Your turn:



Here are some things you might buy:

Your turn:

丝 织 品

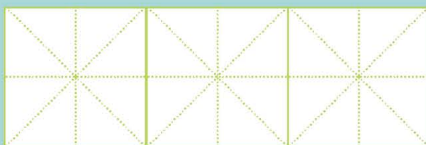


sīzhīpǐn

silk

(pronounced "suh-juh-pin")

丝 织 品



纪 念 品

jìniànpǐn

souvenirs

(pronounced "jee-nee-en-pin")



Your turn:

纪 念 品



工 艺 品

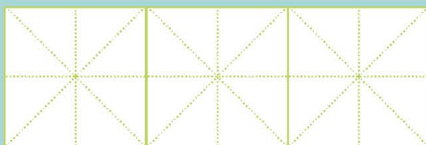
gōngyìpǐn

crafts

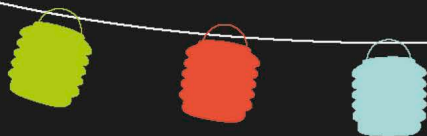


Your turn:

工 艺 品



Festival!



If you are in China in late January or early February, you might be lucky and catch the Chinese New Year.

If so, you will definitely find this phrase useful to know.



Xīnnián kuàilè!

Happy New Year!

Your turn:



On New Year's Eve, family members get together for a meal and fireworks are set off.

On New Year's Day, people visit family and friends and a dragon dance may be held.

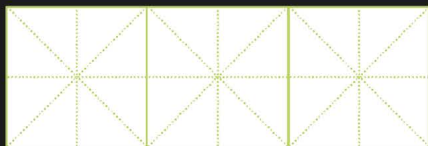


Let's party!

There are other major festivals in China.

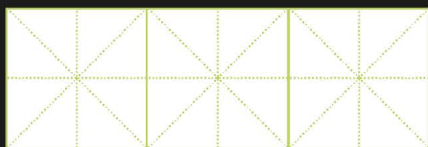
中秋节
Zhōng qiū jié

Your turn: Mid-Autumn Festival



端午节
Duān wǔ jié

Your turn: Dragon Boat Festival



Wherever you go, and whatever you do in China, have fun learning Mandarin Chinese!

Character practice 10

Practice writing the characters from this section here.

看

长城

故宫

天安门广场

上午

下午

爬山

坐船

骑马

请你再说

你说英文吗

我听不懂

品

More to do!

Keep going. This section includes these, too...

丝织品

纪念品

工艺品

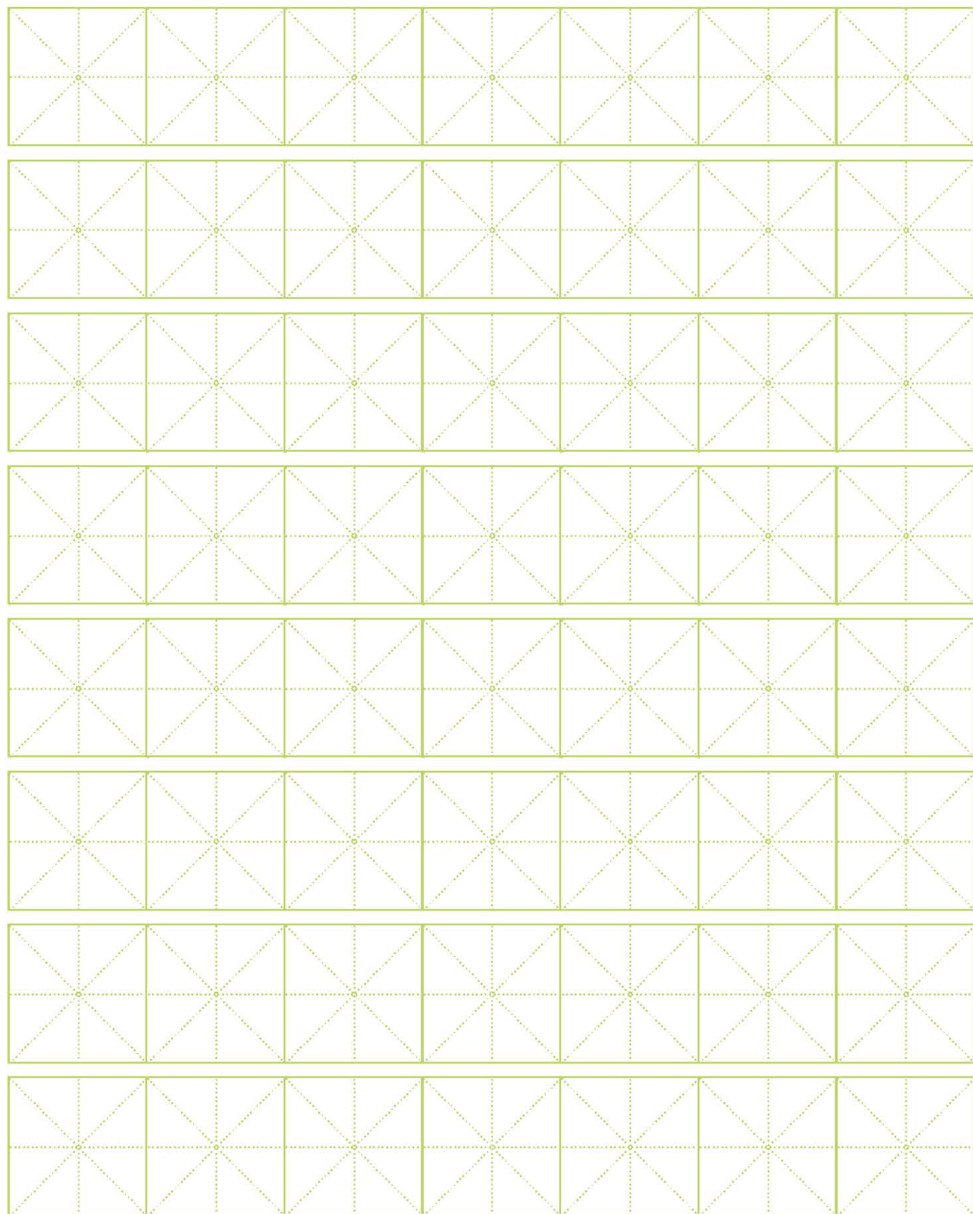
新年快乐

中秋节

端午节

Practice squares

Extra space for extra practice.



Certificate



Congratulations to:

.....

for successfully finishing this book.

好哇,干得漂亮!

Hǎo wa, gànde piàoliang!

Bravo! Good job!

Date:

.....



Remember the golden rules
of writing—if in doubt, write
top to bottom, left to right!

Pronunciation guide

Pinyin is like a language all of its own. Use this rough guide to help you pronounce the words in this book.

Initial	Sound
b	baw
p	paw
m	maw
f	faw
d	duh
t	tuh
n	nuh
l	luh
g	guh
k	kuh
h	huh
j	gee

Initial	Sound
q	chee
x	she
z	dzuh
c	tsuh
s	suh
zh	jir
ch	chir
sh	shir
r	rj
w	ooh
y	ee

Final	Sound
a	ah
ai	i
ao	ow
an	ahn
ang	ahng
o	aw
ong	oong
ou	oh
e	uh
ei	ay
en	un
eng	ung

Final	Sound
er	ar
i	ee/uh
ia	ya
iao	yaow
ian	yan
iang	yahng
ie	yeh
in	een
ing	eeng
iong	yoong
iu	you
u	oo

Final	Sound
ua	wa
uo	waw
ui	way
uai	why
uan	won
un	un
uang	wahng
ü	yoo
ue	oo-weh
üan	ywan
ün	ywen

Useful words

Use this alphabetical list of words from the book for quick reference.

afternoon	xiàwǔ	下午
at	zài	在
autumn/fall	qiūtiān	秋天
ball	qiú	球
basketball	lánqiú	篮球
bathroom	cèsuǒ	厕所
bicycle	zìxíngchē	自行车
big	dà	大
birthday	shēngrì	生日
brother (older)	gēge	哥哥
brother (younger)	dìdi	弟弟
to buy	mǎi	买
car	qìchē	汽车
chicken	jī	鸡
China	Zhōngguó	中国
Chinese person	Zhōngguó rén	中国人
chopsticks	kuàizi	筷子

cold	lěng	冷
dim sum	diǎnxīn	点心
to drink	hē	喝
east	dōng	东
to eat	chī	吃
to enter	jìn	进
father	bàba	爸爸
fish	yú	鱼
fruit	shuǐguǒ	水果
to go	qù	去
goodbye	zàijiàn	再见
hello	nǐ hǎo	你好
hot	rè	热
I	wǒ	我
knife	dāo	刀
to like	xǐhuan	喜欢
to love	ài	爱
man	nánrén	男人
menu	càidān	菜单
moon	yuè	月

morning	shàngwǔ	上午
mother	māma	妈妈
no/not	bù	不
noodles	miàntiáo	面条
north	běi	北
to paint	huàhuà	画画
person	rén	人
please	qǐng	请
rain	yǔ	雨
restaurant	fàndiàn	饭店
rice	mǐfàn	米饭
to see	kàn	看
silk	sīzhīpǐn	丝织品
sister (older)	jiějie	姐姐
sister (younger)	mèimei	妹妹
to sit	zuò	坐
small	xiǎo	小
soccer	zúqiú	足球
south	nán	南
souvenir	jìniànpǐn	纪念品

spoon	sháozi	勺子
spring	chūntiān	春天
to study	xuéxí	学习
summer	xiàtiān	夏天
table tennis	pīngpāngqiú	乒乓球
tea	chá	茶
tennis	wǎngqiú	网球
thank you	xièxie	谢谢
thing/article	pǐn	品
ticket	piào	票
train	huǒchē	火车
vehicle	chē	车
waiter	fúwùyuán	服务员
to want	xiǎng	想
west	xī	西
where	nǎr	哪儿
which	nǎ gè	哪个
winter	dōngtiān	冬天
woman	nǚrén	女人
you	nǐ	你

Answers

p.19 1) zàijiàn 2) xièxie 3) nǐ hǎo

p.23 1) Fàndiàn zài nǎr? 2) Shūdiàn zài nǎr?

3) Cháguǎn zài nǎr? 4) Cèsuǒ zài nǎr?

p.26 1) 请进 2) 请坐 3) 请喝茶

p.38–39 1) 小 2) 大 3) 大 4) 小

p.43 Zhè shì wǒ de māma.

p.53 **Geography test** 1) Jiānádà 2) Yīngguó

3) Hélán 4) Měiguó 5) Fǎguó 6) Zhōngguó

Your turn 1) Nǐ shì nǎ guó rén?

2) Wǒ shì Yīngguó rén. 3) Wǒ shì Fǎguó rén.

4) Wǒ shì Riběnrén.

p.58 1) 15 2) 40 3) 18 4) 14 5) 23 6) 71 7) 99 8) 58

p.59 1) 230 2) 60,000 3) 4,300 4) 90,000

p.81 1) yòubiān 1 zuǒbiān 2

2) yìzhí zǒu 1 yòubiān 2 zuǒbiān 3

p.83 2) wǔ diǎn 3) jiǔ diǎn bàn 4) èr diǎn èrshí fēn

p.95 Literally: “Waiter, I want to eat dim sum.”; a polite translation is: “Waiter, I’d like some dim sum.”

About the author



Elinor Greenwood graduated from Leeds University with a degree in Modern Chinese Studies. She has lived and worked in China for many years. She presently lives near Cambridge and divides her time between writing language books and teaching children Mandarin. She is the author of *Get Talking Chinese* and *Fun and Easy Chinese*.

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